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Volume 36, No. 5, May 2004

Carolina Country



How Fast Is Electricity?

Test your safety IQ, page 14

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Touchstone Energy

What We Did When the Power Went Out — page 18



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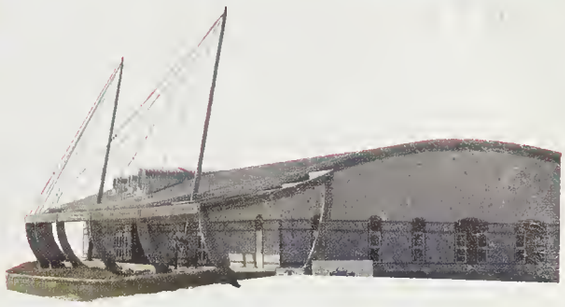
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The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum on Hatteras Island will put North Carolina in league with the maritime history heavyweights.



On the Cover
Malinda Coker of Haywood County enjoys springtime in Maggie Valley. Photo by Frederica Georgia, Vilas, N.C.

Maggie Valley's 100th birthday celebration begins this month. See page 37.



The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is almost finished. See page 26.

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Pecan log recipes

Thank you to each and every person who responded to my plea for help in finding a pecan log recipe. ["First Person," March 2004] The response to my request has been astounding. I have received many replies and am truly grateful to each of you who sent a recipe to me, either by mail or e-mail. I will, in time, try out each recipe. I never knew there were so many different recipes for a pecan log.

Lisa Hicks
Lexington



Snow scene

It is not often we in eastern North Carolina get to see snow, so when we awoke on Feb. 23, 2004, and saw a most beautiful snow fall, we had to take a picture.

Ralph & Lu Anne Tridico
New Bern

Wash Day

This was written by Ted Clark about his mother's Wash Day, which usually occurred on Monday.

Ruth Clark
Durham
Piedmont EMC

Big Ma's Wash Day

1. Build a fire in back yard to heat wash pot full of rain water.
2. Set tub so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is strong.
3. Shave one whole cake of lye soap in boiling water. (Or Octagon soap.)
4. Sort things. Make three piles: 1 pile white, I pile colored, I pile work britches and rags.
5. Rub dirt spots on board, scrub hard, then boil. Rub colored, but don't boil.
6. Take white things out of pot with a broomstick handle, then rinse and starch
7. Hang old rags on fence, and clothes on the line.
8. Pour rinse water in flower bed.
9. Scrub front porch with hot soapy water.
10. Turn tubs upside down and put one at the edge of the house to catch rain water.
11. Go put on a clean house dress. Comb hair with a fine comb.
12. Put in a fresh dip of snuff. Set and rock a spell on the porch and count your blessings.

2004 touring guide online

The "See North Carolina" touring guide that accompanied the April 2004 issue of Carolina Country has been a popular publication. Anyone who misplaced their copy or did not get one may see the entire guide in the "See NC" section of our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com.

The Web site version also contains any updated information we've received since publishing the original.

Smoke scene

On Feb. 14, 2004, my husband, Jerry, was burning leaves in our driveway and remarked that the scene reminded him of a civil war battle scene. With the smoke, the old building (which is our wellhouse), the wagon wheel, and my father's plow, I had to agree with him. The scene made you want to stop and listen for the sound of muskets firing the background.



My Dad was a tobacco farmer in Surry County his entire life. He worked hard and raised a large family, a total of 11 children. It took me back to a time when I would follow along behind my Dad while he plowed the fields with this very plow, pulled by our horse, Maude. It was time when things were easier, or perhaps that was because I was a mere child and could not understand the concept of mouths to feed and bills to pay.

I wanted to preserve the moment for myself and possibly for future works of art. As an artist, I often take pictures of things that may or may not become my latest inspiration. I like scenes that are simple, peaceful and bring a smile to your face when you look at them.

I have gone through several stages in my art and probably will continue to experiment with various forms. I love oils for their rich color, watercolor for the softness, and pyrographic (wood burning) for its rustic appearance. Even fabric gives me an opportunity to express myself in quilts. Some of my quilts of art are hanging in the Mount Airy Emergency Room waiting area, Surry Community College in Dobson, and in the Mount Airy Martial Arts. I believe art can be anywhere and in any form, we just have to slow down and enjoy it.

Bonnie Shropshire
Dobson
workinghands@triad.rr.com

Editor's Note: We published the wrong name with this photo in April's magazine and apologize for the mistake.

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Round 3

You know you're from North Carolina if . . .



Your ideas keep coming in on how you can tell you're from North Carolina. It's amazing how many you are coming up with, and how right-on they are.

We did hear from a reader who thinks these might be casting North Carolina personalities and culture in a negative light or repeating unflattering stereotypes. If they do, we apologize. Otherwise, a whole bunch of you don't mind.

Round One ran in the February 2004 magazine, and Round Two ran in March. You can see those again on our Web site: *www.carolinacountry.com*. We have received enough new ones to publish three or four more pages. We will publish what we can.

Mary-Louise Swindell McGee of Hyde County said she's going to send in some "old sayings," hoping we can publish some of those before they fade away from memory. She's referring to expressions such as, "When I say the blueberries are ripe, you just bring the bucket."

Send yours to:

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You Know You're From North Carolina If . . .

From Gail Austin, Four Oaks:

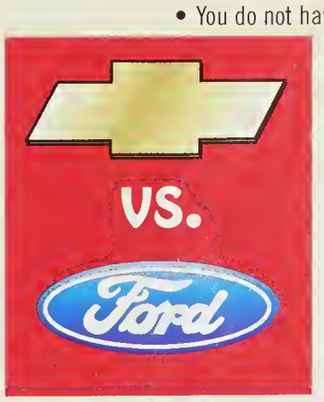
- You hear people say "barn backer" instead of "tobacco."
- You eat molasses and butter together with fatback.
- You eat coon and sweet potatoes together.

From Ruth Leggett, Gates:

- You know what looping tobacco is.
- Your first driving test was on a tractor.
- Homework means working in the fields.
- Getting the switch means you did something wrong.
- You know what a cane pole is for.

From F.N. Stanton, Maxton, who is writing a book called "What My Pappy Told Me":

- You ever had cow pies between your toes.
- You have a beehive under a Granny Smith apple tree.
- You know a stick broom is a store bought broom with a wooden handle.
- You like an onion sandwich with mustard.
- You had a crush on your first cousin but she liked your brother.
- You daughter wants to be a professional clog dancer when she grows up.
- You are still hiding your Confederate money from the I.R.S.
- Your Christmas tree is aluminum and you live in a pine thicket.
- You know pony bread is not made from a dead colt.
- You know someone who had R.C. Cola and moon pies at a tailgate party.



From Ronnie and Connie Dudley:

- You have sucked the juice from a honeysuckle blossom.
- You have chewed on a sour weed.
- You have waded in a ditch behind your house and found crayfish and minnows.
- You have played under the house in the hot summer.
- You know what a toadhouse is, and you know how to find doodlebugs.
- You have spent the night on a fishing pier.
- You have eaten chocolate cake made from a 50-pound lard stand lid.

From Mary-Louise Swindell McGee, Swindell Fork:

- You use a "race" of soap instead of a bar.
- You use sweet soap for hands, instead of Octagon soap.
- You "hearn" something instead of "heard" it.
- You go to schoolhouse, churchhouse and kitchenhouse.

From Thelma Vann, Eure:

- Possums sleep in the middle of the road with their feet in the air.
- You do not have to wear a watch, because it doesn't matter what time it is. You work until it is done or it is too dark to see.
- Fried catfish is the other white meat.
- The four seasons are almost summer, summer, still summer and Christmas.

From Janine Atkinson, Windsor, who says, "These are true for northeastern North Carolina anyway."

- It's OK to insult anybody, as long as you follow it up with, "Bless his/her heart," as in "He ain't too bright, bless his heart."
- You season your vegetables with bacon grease or pork meat.
- You know what chitlins are, and that you eat them with vinegar, and what cracklins are and that you eat them with baked sweet potatoes.
- You don't think it's weird to eat fried fish or pork chops for breakfast.
- When considering marriage, Chevy vs. Ford ranks right up there with religious differences.

From Cabe Speary, a member of Albemarle EMC:

- You know what "pinhooker" means (in the tobacco and timber sense).
- You get together with some of your buddies to cook a pig, and one of them says "Hey, J.T., yew brang the box springs, or was I s'possed to?" Your primary exclamation is "Good God, I do reckon!"
- Your favorite NASCAR driver is mentioned in your obituary.
- You know the plural of "you" is not "ya'll." It's "you'ins." The plural of "you'ins" is "all'yuns."
- Given the choice of listening to Andy Griffith's "And They Called It Football" story again, or a Presidential debate, well, you know which one you would pick.
- Your friends from Tyrrell County have a completely different accent than your friends from Bertie County, even though they grew up less than an hour apart.
- You wonder why everyone is leaving the Hurricane's hockey game at the end of the 3rd quarter.

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U.S. Senate candidates meet with cooperative leaders in Raleigh

The two principal candidates to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate met with the leaders of North Carolina's electric cooperatives in Raleigh April 1 during the annual meeting of the cooperatives' statewide organizations.

Seeking to fill the seat vacated by Sen. John Edwards, Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Richard Burr gave remarks and answered questions at separate times. Both spoke about such issues as health care, education and reviving North Carolina's economy.

Each also was asked about the primary energy issues of the day.





U.S. Senate candidates Erskine Bowles (left) and Richard Burr met with electric co-op leaders in Raleigh on April 1.

Stating that he has worked with cooperatives on economic development projects many times, Bowles said, "I know firsthand what electric co-ops do for your communities. You are the backbone of your communities." He said he understands the capital-intensive nature of the electric utility business and pledged to permit tax incentives for building and rebuilding infrastructure components. He said he supports the U.S. Rural Utilities Service programs that allow low-interest financing for cooperatives, and he believes that the tax code "should not penalize cooperatives for being efficient."

Burr said there's no one in the North Carolina Congressional delegation who has more experience in energy issues than he does (he has been a member of the House Committee of Energy and Commerce during all 10 of his years in Congress). "We can't tell what the big issues are going to be," he said, but added, "I have stood side-by-side with the co-ops and we've never lost. We've always won or came to a draw. . . What we need is a united front."

Burr represents North Carolina's nine most northwestern counties, plus parts of Davie and Forsyth counties. Regarding health care, he told the cooperatives' delegates that "at the heart of the problem today is the fact that we can't change the liability that currently exists in the marketplace for doctors and hospitals." He said that approximately one third of businesses in the United States are considering dropping health care coverage as an employee benefit, primarily because frivolous lawsuits are driving up the costs of health care insurance.

Bowles is a Greensboro native and Charlotte businessman who ran for the seat that Sen. Elizabeth Dole won in 2002. He supports a tobacco buy-out bill to help farmers and said that high-speed Internet access is "a must" for rural North Carolina. "No small business is going to be able to sell to a large business in the future unless it can do so electronically. All state and federal procurement will be done over the Internet. It is critical to the future economic development of America and particularly rural North Carolina."



Duane Salstrand photos

Each year, the Volunteers Committee of North Carolina's electric cooperatives gives three scholarships to high school seniors who had participated as juniors in the co-ops' Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Awarded at the statewide annual meeting April 1, they were as follows (left to right): Carol Helms of Hampstead won the $2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship, Alyn B. Berry of Kernersville won the $2,500 Gwyn B. Price Memorial Scholarship, and Rebecca R. Pittman of Richlands won the $2,000 Youth Leadership Council Scholarship. As the Youth Leadership Council representative, Pittman also attended the cooperatives' national meeting in New Orleans.

Officers elected to co-ops' statewide organizations

North Carolina's electric cooperatives elected officers for their three statewide organizations during the March 31-April 1 annual meeting of those organizations. They are as follows.

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, the statewide services association, elected to one-year terms Michael S. Hassley, Surry-Yadkin EMC, president; Walton J. Fulcher, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative, vice president; Frederick A. Tedder, Brunswick EMC, secretary-treasurer.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, the statewide power supply cooperative, re-elected to one-year terms: Curtis Wynn, Roanoke Electric Cooperative, president; J. Ronald McElheney, Jones-Onslow EMC, vice president; Buddy G. Creed, South River EMC, secretary-treasurer.

Tarheel Electric Membership Association, the statewide material supply cooperative, re-elected to one-year terms L. Calvin Duncan, Brunswick EMC, president; Richard R. Grady, Tri-County EMC, vice president; Norman Sloan, Haywood EMC, secretary-treasurer.

Panel says mandatory standards could prevent another blackout

The U.S.-Canada task force investigating the August 2003 power blackout in the Northeast in its final report in early April urged both countries to act quickly to prevent another massive blackout by adopting mandatory and enforceable electricity reliability standards, with penalties for noncompliance, backed by government oversight.

Other recommendations included:

Strengthening the institutional framework of the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) and its initiatives on compliance. (NERC is the voluntary non-profit organization composed of all segments of the electricity industry that since 1968 has worked to ensure the integrity of the region's electric transmission system.)

- Developing a funding mechanism approved by regulators for NERC and the regional reliability councils, in order to ensure their independence from the parties they oversee;
- Addressing by the end of June deficiencies identified in FirstEnergy, the Ohio-based utility cited for failing to prevent the blackout, and some reliability organizations in the U.S.;
- Improving training and certification requirements for operators, reliability coordinators and operator support staff; and increasing the physical and cyber security of the network.

Like an interim report released in November, the final version faults FirstEnergy for lacking the ability to properly monitor its own system and for failing to trim trees that shorted out sagging power lines on the day of the blackout. The report also says FirstEnergy did not ensure that its system in northern Ohio had sufficient voltage, a component of electricity that is comparable to pressure in a water pipe.

Prior to the blackout, NERC had urged federal legislators to enact mandatory reliability standards such as those suggested in the report. Standards are included in the federal energy legislation that failed to make it through Congress last year because legislators disagreed about other provisions in that bill.

The task force's final report also implied that deregulation of the wholesale energy business and the resulting increase in long-distance power trading may have played a role in the blackout. The report noted that in 1986, America's investor-owned utilities generated the majority of their own electricity, purchasing 18 percent from other utilities and independent power producers. By 2002, the portion purchased from outside suppliers had grown to 37 percent, the report says, necessitating an array of power transfers that sometimes span long distances. Over the same period, the report notes, American electricity demand and generating capacity grew by 26 percent and 22 percent, respectively, while the capacity of the regional transmission grid grew very little.

"It is likely that the increased loads and flows across a transmission grid that has experienced little new investment is causing greater stress upon the hardware, software and human beings that are the critical components of the system," the report said.

The task force recommended commissioning an independent study of the relationships among industry restructuring, competition and reliability.

The full report can be seen at the U.S. Department of Energy Web site: https://reports.energy.gov/

Co-ops are the principal funding source of the N.C. Burn Center's education program

The chief executive officers of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives recently presented a check for $66,593 to help fund the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center's "Learn Not to Burn" program. The innovative fire prevention and safety program is presented to thousands of North Carolina fourth grade students across the state each year.

The electric cooperatives and their associated vendors have become a major funding source for the Burn Center's educational program. The bulk of the money raised comes from a fundraising golf tournament organized by the general managers of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Funds raised by the electric cooperative managers, electric cooperatives, associates and vendors make up almost 50 percent of the Learn Not to Burn Program's budget.

Dale Lambert, executive vice president and general manager of Randolph EMC, based in Asheboro, is the tournament fundraising chair. "The burn center is near and dear to the hearts of the North Carolina electric cooperative managers," he said. "The work done by the burn center has become an inspiration to all of us and we are proud to partner with our vendors to support this life saving program."

Buddy Creed, South River EMC's CEO and a burn center board member, said, "We're pleased to be a part of such an effective program that teaches children how to prevent fires and how to respond in the event of a fire."

The funds raised by the cooperatives allow teachers to attend workshops and receive books and resource materials to help their students learn about the importance of fire safety. The education program touches the lives of more than 86,000 fourth grade students each school year and is taught in 98 percent of the public school systems. The program is taught in all 100 North Carolina counties.



The N.C. Jaycee Burn Center, Chapel Hill, is considered one of the best in the nation.

The N.C. Jaycee Burn Center, based in Chapel Hill, has been operating since 1980 and helps rehabilitate patients who have had severe and even life-threatening burns and provides education in fire prevention.

Faces From the Flood:

HURRICANE FLOYD REMEMBERED

By Richard Moore and Jay Barnes

Hurricane Floyd is considered the worst natural disaster in North Carolina's history. On Sept. 15 and 16, 1999, the storm dumped 26 inches of rain in 36 hours across most of eastern North Carolina less than two weeks after Hurricane Dennis left 10 inches of rain. It was a Category II storm with winds up to 115 miles per hour, but the flooding caused most of the damage, estimated at $6 billion. More than 60,000 homes were flooded, and there were 52 fatalities attributed to the disaster.



Jay Barnes

Mayor Delia Perkins of Princeville sits on the steps of the old Princeville town hall in July 2002. During the flood that submerged her town, only the roof of the building was above the water.

Richard Moore and Jay Barnes interviewed more than 50 people from 17 counties and combined their stories in a new book, "Faces From the Flood: Hurricane Floyd Remembered," published this year by the University of North Carolina Press. Moore is State Treasurer today and was Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety during Floyd. Barnes is director of the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores and author of "North Carolina's Hurricane History."

By permission of the publisher, Carolina Country publishes here excerpts from two of the interviews in the book. The book is 256 pages and includes 52 photographs, three tables and four maps. It is available in bookstores for $29.95 in hardcover and $19.95 in softcover. For more information visit the Web site http://uncpress.unc.edu

Delia Perkins was mayor of Princeville in Martin County during Hurricane Floyd. Princeville was founded by freed slaves in 1865 and incorporated in 1885. It is the oldest city chartered by blacks in America. Perkins is a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

J.C. Heath is a native of Snow Hill, Greene County, and is a member of Pitt & Greene EMC.

DELIA PERKINS

No North Carolina community was more devastated by Hurricane Floyd than the town of Princeville. With her town completely evacuated and her offices under more than 20 feet of water, Mayor Delia Perkins was faced with the challenge of bringing Princeville back from disaster. It was especially difficult for Delia, since floodwaters reached the ceiling in her own home. She was interviewed in her temporary office in Princeville in June 2002.

We'd had a lot of problems in the town leading up to Floyd, and we had just started to come out of a bad situation. The town was just beginning to move forward when along came September 16 and Hurricane Floyd.

The problems started, I guess, on a Wednesday. We had back-to-back storms and a lot of rain. We did have some low-lying flooding on that Wednesday, but not a lot. We had to move some citizens out from a few areas. That Thursday it continued to rain, but we did not think it was going to be anything major. Water backed up



Donnaree

J.C. Heath of Snow Hill rebuilt his house himself after the flood. "FEMA offered to buy it but I told them it wasn't for sale."

because of some old sewer pipes and drainpipes that were stopped up. That Thursday night they saw that the river was rising quite fast, and it got to the point that we decided to get citizens together to sandbag the opening where the railroad goes through the dike. It's a little bit lower than the dike. The dike, from the bottom up, is thirty-seven feet.

We had twenty-one hundred people in the town that we needed to decide what to do about. We weren't sure how much water would come over the dike, or even if it would come over the dike. So I spoke with two other commissioners and told them what the Weather Service had said. I told them I thought we needed to evacuate just for the night, to make sure that everyone would be okay, and they agreed.

That Friday morning I asked the police department to come over and check to see how things were, and then we could decide what we were going to do. One of our police officers went into the police department and heard a load roaring sound—that was the sound of water coming over the dike. It didn't come over the dike until that Friday. He got out and called us, but by the time I got down to the river bridge, the water had just started rushing and consumed the town.

It was like a war zone. By that time they had called in the Coast Guard, the Marines, and the Army. They had helicopters and boats to go and get people. Some people woke up, decided to come back home, and went down in Southern Terrace and got trapped. The water just came in so fast. They had to rescue all of those people. We didn't lose anyone, and we were lucky, because the whole town was just consumed with water. Right here where we are sitting there was about twenty-some feet of water.

Even when the water started to go down, we had to wait because a lot of the caskets came up out of the cemeteries. So we could not let anyone come back over here until we could get those caskets. It was already traumatic, what had happened. Then not knowing if maybe that was your mother or your father in that casket, made it really tough. This town was shut down for quite a long time.

It was about ten days before the water receded out of the town. Once they were able, they went in to check the houses with scuba gear to see if there were any bodies in them. There were problems with snakes, too. Once the water started to go down, it looked like a scene out of a Halloween mystery. Everything was covered with mud, and the trees looked dead. Some trees had been uprooted and had fallen over the streets and hit the light lines.

All the residents had lost everything. But I think a majority of the citizens, though they were upset, most of them were able to still keep some sort of sanity. It was heartbreaking to think about people that had been living in these houses for quite a long time. To think that your house was gone, your furniture was gone, all of your pictures, everything was gone. If you didn't just have a really strong will, it was something that could make you or break you. It was a fine thread that kept some people from going completely over the edge. I think that their faith in God, and the spirit of the volunteers that came in, were two things that helped people cope.

Sometimes you don't know why things happen. I'm a firm believer in that sometimes God lets things happen in order to get your attention and refocus your life. And I think Floyd was something that should have refocused a lot of people's lives.

J. C. HEATH

J. C. Heath is a marvel of country wisdom, honesty, and courage. After water flooded his Snow Hill home into the second floor, the 72-year-old patiently took his house apart, cleaned it, and put it back together. Most of the work he did himself. He was interviewed at the Greene County Administrative Building in August 2002.

When the water begun to come up, I saw I was in trouble. So I got me some help, and I got some cement blocks and I blocked up everything in the house. Three foot probably, about. The refrigerator, the stove, washing machine, the piano—everything I could raise, I raised up. And anything I couldn't raise up that I could tote

continued on p. 12

continued from p. 11

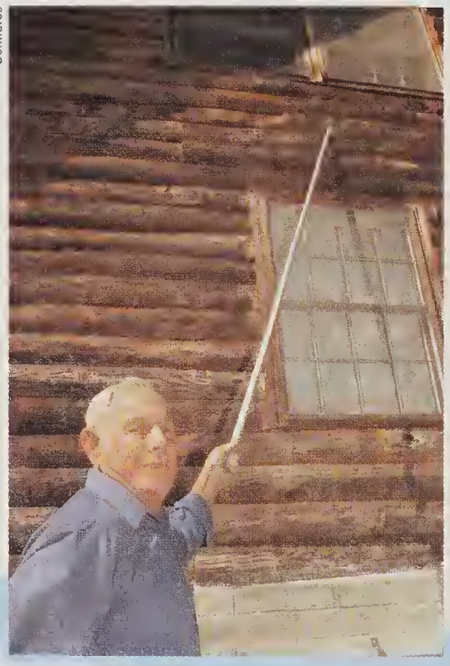
upstairs, I carried upstairs. About dinnertime, the water was already in the house about two feet deep. I had blocked my stuff up, and I came back and blocked it again. I'd add a block, and thought it won't never get that high. So it kept rising, and about middle of the evening, I guess, I told my wife to just leave and go on over to my daughter's house. I'd stay the night and come over the next day and get her.

After she left, I took a ladder and put it up over against the house. I tied up my boy's boat to the end of the house. The boat stayed at my house all the time, an aluminum boat about twelve foot. The water kept rising, and I kept waiting for it to quit. I stayed there until about nine-thirty or ten o'clock, I reckon. I saw it wasn't gonna quit rising, so I decided I would leave. I went upstairs, come down the ladder, got in the boat, and paddled over to my higher ground.

The only way back into the house was through the upstairs window. The water was up in the second floor before it was all over with.

We hauled out what we could. We hauled three or four boatloads of furniture across that water, and put it in his house and a barn. I went back to get something out of the house, and I run the boat up on the back porch. I reached over to hold on to something on the wall to balance myself and pull my boat over to the porch, when it pulled off the wall and I fell out of the boat. I reckon I'm the only fellow you've ever seen that fell out of a boat on his back porch.

Donnaree



I think it was probably about two weeks before I could get back in the house to do anything. In fact there was water in the house for two weeks.

I got house movers to move the house over, and he just jacked it up and left it. I had to tear out all the downstairs floors and walls, but the upstairs floor I didn't take out. My daughter and her husband helped a little bit, and my boy helped me, but they had to work and I done what I could myself.

I didn't have any flood insurance. FEMA offered to buy it but I told them it wasn't for sale.

It probably cost me thirty to forty thousand, but another house would have cost me twice that. But I've still got an old house. It's a good solid house and it ain't going nowhere. The house actually tried to float, but the chimney is so heavy that it couldn't.

The highest water around here that anybody had ever knowed anything about was around 1927, I think. My daddy lived in this neighborhood most of his life, and he said he had never seen the water no higher than the floor of my house.

There's lots of reasons this thing happened. There's too many big parking lots and highways. Everybody's paving and putting concrete on everything, and building houses, and the water's got nowhere to go but to run off.

FEMA bought me a little old trailer, about as long as this room, and I told them to come get it. I said I can't live in that thing. I just can't live in nothing that little. I went over to my daughter's house and stayed about two or three weeks. Then I lived over here in Snow Hill in an upstairs apartment that belonged to my sister's husband. I stayed there until I got me a trailer set up out there.

Most of the photos and personal things I had moved upstairs. I had an old clock that was sitting on the mantel and I forgot to move it upstairs. When I come back it had fell all to pieces. It was put together with glue, and was probably eighty years old or more. That glue come apart and it just fell right down to the bottom. And the piano fell all to pieces. You couldn't even pick up the piano to move it, it just fell all apart. The piano was sitting up on those blocks, and as heavy as it was, how did it fall over? Only thing I can figure is the refrigerator floated by and knocked it off.

A strange thing happened, though. I had a watch. My daddy's watch. It was laying on the mantelpiece, and I had set a lamp over it. An old kerosene lamp. When that water rose, I forgot it. I told my wife it will never make it. But I went back and got it, picked it up and wound it up, and it never missed a beat. It was underwater in an air bubble under that lamp. I wouldn't never believe it, but not one drop of water got in that watch.

J.C. Heath shows how high the flood waters rose on his Snow Hill house. "My daddy lived in this neighborhood most of his life, and he said he had never seen the water no higher than the floor of my house."

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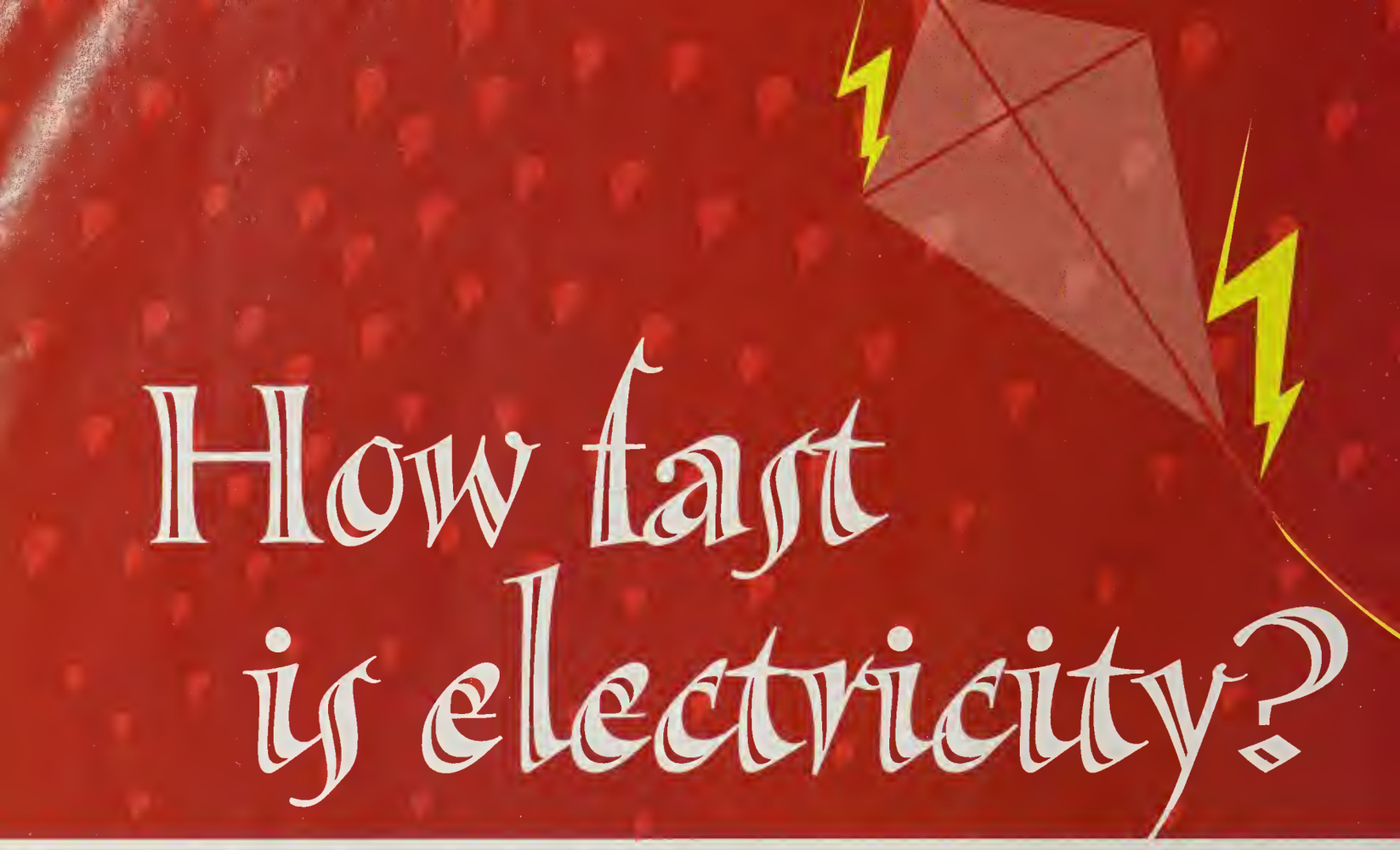
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How fast is electricity?

1. **Electricity travels at the rate of:**
 A. 120 miles per hour.
 B. 5,280 feet per second.
 C. 186,300 miles per second.

2. **True or False:** It's OK to use black electrical tape to repair a frayed power cord, or to splice a power cord, as long as you cover all exposed wire.

3. **If a fuse blows or circuit breaker trips, the first thing you should do is:**
 A. Call your electric cooperative.
 B. Determine what caused the fuse to blow or the breaker to trip.
 C. Replace the fuse or reset the breaker.

4. **True or False:** It's safer to run an extension cord under a rug than it is to leave it out in the open .

5. **What are GFCIs?**
 A. Ground fault circuit interrupters.
 B. General formula cellular ions.
 C. Gel-filled cylinder insulators.

6. **Which floor lamp gets hotter: one with a standard incandescent bulb or one with a halogen bulb?**

Test Your Electrical Safety IQ

Take the Carolina Country electrical safety test and see how well you score. It's easy, it's fun, it's important. Answers and your score are on page 16.

7. **What does the third prong on a 3-prong do?**
 A. Provides a path to ground for electricity that may "leak" from an appliance or product.
 B. Provides extra power for equipment requiring high wattage.
 C. Helps to hold the plug firmly in the outlet.

8. **True or False:** It's OK to store flammable materials near electrical equipment such as wall switches or power equipment because they don't cause sparks.

9. **True or False:** All overhead power lines are completely insulated.

ANSWERS TO THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTRICITY AND SAFETY.

10. Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be electrocuted?
A. It is not touching the ground.
B. It has no metallic substance in its body.
C. It has no water in its body.
D. Its feathers act as insulation.

11. True or False: It is safe to climb a tree located near a power line as long as the limbs aren't touching the line.

12. True or False: It is safe to touch a power line with a pole, as long as the pole is made of plastic.

13. How much voltage is needed to hurt or kill people?
A. 120 volts.
B. 240 volts.
C. More than 240 volts.
D. Any voltage.

14. True or False: A car is a safe place to be in an electrical storm because it has rubber tires.

15. Where is the safest place to be during a lightning storm?
A. In a car.
B. In the middle of a field with no trees.
C. In a house.
D. Lying face down on the ground.

16. True or False: Using a telephone during a lightning storm is dangerous.

17. If you see a downed power line or low-hanging power line, you should:
A. Move it out of the way and call your local electric cooperative.
B. Stay clear and call the electric cooperative immediately.
C. Don't worry about it, because your cooperative already knows about it.

18. Which of the following can conduct electricity?
A. Metal.
B. Tree limbs.
C. Human body.
D. All of the above.

19. True or False: Water is the best conductor of electricity.

20. Most utility power lines are:
A. Bare and dangerous to touch.
B. Insulated and touchable.
C. Bare but OK to touch.

ANSWERS

1. C. Electricity travels at the rate of 186,300 miles per second (the speed of light).

2. False. The black tape – usually vinyl – is not rated to handle the heat generated by electricity running through wires. It will melt and burn.

3. B. Learn what caused the fuse to blow or the breaker to trip before replacing or resetting. If you can't find out, call an electrician.

4. False. If a cord runs under a rug, you can't inspect it for damage, and an overheated one can ignite floor covering. Remember: an extension cord is not a substitute for household wiring. They are for temporary use only. Store the cords away when you're through using them.

5. A. Ground fault circuit interrupters are installed on electric wiring at wall outlets. They protect against accidental electric shock or electrocution by acting immediately to shut off the circuit if they sense a ground fault, or "leak" of current off the circuit. They have been in American homes since the 1970s on circuits that are located in areas that can get wet. The outlet receptacles have a test button (which breaks the circuit), and a reset button (to re-open the circuit). Sometimes a major electrical storm can affect GFCIs and you may have to reset them.

6. The halogen bulb operates at a much higher temperature. Don't place halogen floor lamps near draperies, clothing or other combustible materials, or in children's rooms. Shut them off when you leave the room for an extended period.

7. A. The third prong provides a path to ground to protect the equipment and user from electric shock. You should never remove the third prong in an attempt to use a 2-prong outlet.

8. False. It is unsafe to store flammable materials near any electrical equipment, because a spark could jump unexpectedly.

9. False. Not all overhead power lines are insulated. Many overhead lines are partially insulated, but they are still dangerous to touch.

10 A. Birds can safely sit on power wires because birds are not touching the ground or any other grounded object. If a person standing on the ground or on the pole touched the same wire, the person would be killed.

11. False. It is not safe to climb a tree located near a power line at any time. Electricity has the ability to "jump" from the power line to the tree, and could electrocute someone in the tree.

12. False. It is not safe to touch a power line with any pole. The same goes for an antenna or other object.

13. D. Any voltage can hurt or kill people.

14. False. While cars are a very safe place to be, it is not the tires that protect you. Your tires would have to be about a mile thick and made of solid rubber to afford you adequate protection. It is actually the metal that is surrounding you that affords the protection. This is due to something called the "skin effect," which means that electricity, like lightning, will travel only on the surface of enclosed metal objects. So while your car may be hit by lightning, as long as you stay inside, you are safe, provided that you have a metal car that is not a convertible.

15. C. By far the safest place to be during an electrical storm is in a house or building. The metal plumbing and wiring in the walls of the building form a protective barrier. It is important to remember not to be touching that metallic "cage," which means staying away from electrical appliances, plumbing fixtures and wiring during an electrical storm.

16. True. Lightning can strike telephone and electrical wires and travel into your house, through your phone cord, into your telephone and into the handset. Cordless phones are not dangerous because there is no physical connection to the wires. But you should not use your cordless phone during an electrical storm to call your neighbor who may not have a cordless phone.

17. B. If you see a downed power line or a low-hanging one, you should stay clear and call your electric cooperative immediately.

18. D. Metal, tree limbs and the human body can all conduct electricity.

19. False. Silver is the best conductor, but water is a good one and does carry electrical current.

20. A. Most electric utility lines are bare and dangerous to touch.

How Did You Do?

Your cooperative believes it is very important that you know how to be safe around electricity. Just like there's no such thing as being too safe, there's also no such thing as too much information about electrical safety. We hope you enjoyed the quiz and learned something.

Score	Rating
20 correct	You can work for an electric cooperative.
15 to 19 correct	You missed the trick questions.
1 to 14 correct	You learned important information.
None correct	You chose wrong answers on purpose.

All information has been approved by the Job Safety & Training Department of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

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MONTHLY RATES

	Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
15 Year Term	20-25	Call for more information		12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	26			12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	27			12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	28			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	29			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	30			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	31			12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	32			12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	33			12.43	11.38	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
	34			12.43	11.46	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
	35			12.43	11.64	14.88	13.56	24.50	21.88
	36			12.78	11.99	15.53	14.22	25.81	23.19
	37			13.21	12.51	16.41	15.31	27.56	25.38
	38			13.56	13.04	17.06	16.41	28.88	27.56
	39			14.09	13.74	17.94	17.50	30.63	29.75
	40			14.61	14.35	19.03	18.81	32.81	32.38
	41			15.66	14.96	20.78	19.91	36.31	34.56
	42			16.98	15.66	22.97	21.22	40.69	37.19
	43			18.11	16.10	25.38	22.09	45.50	38.94
	44			19.51	16.71	27.78	23.41	50.31	41.56
	45			21.18	17.59	30.63	24.94	56.00	44.63
	46			22.49	18.20	33.03	26.03	60.81	46.81
	47			24.33	19.08	36.53	27.56	67.81	49.88
	48			26.16	20.04	39.81	29.31	74.38	53.38
	49			28.18	20.83	43.75	30.84	82.25	56.44
	50			30.36	21.96	47.91	33.03	90.56	60.81
	51			32.64	23.19	51.84	35.22	98.44	65.19
	52			35.35	24.59	56.88	37.84	108.50	70.44

MONTHLY RATES

	Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
15 Year Term	53	Other amounts also available		38.06	26.16	61.91	40.69	118.56	76.13
	54			40.86	27.65	67.38	43.31	129.50	81.38
	55			44.36	29.58	73.72	46.81	142.19	88.38
	56			50.31	32.73	84.66	51.84	164.06	98.44
	57			56.96	35.96	96.91	57.31	188.56	109.38
	58			64.14	39.64	110.03	63.00	214.81	120.75
	59			71.23	43.31	123.16	69.13	241.06	133.00
	60			80.15	47.86	139.56	76.34	273.88	147.44
10 Year Term	61			53.99	37.36	96.91	60.59	188.56	115.94
	62			59.50	40.69	108.06	66.50	210.88	127.75
	63			65.01	44.01	119.00	72.19	232.75	139.13
	64			70.53	47.34	129.94	78.09	254.63	150.94
	65			77.44	51.63	143.72	85.53	282.19	165.81
	66			85.14	55.30	158.81	91.44	312.38	177.63
	67			95.46	58.98	179.16	99.53	353.06	193.81
	68			105.79	63.79	199.72	107.41	394.19	209.56
	69			116.11	68.43	220.06	115.50	434.88	225.75
	70			128.98	73.85	245.44	125.56	485.63	245.88
	71			147.79	87.59	283.50	152.69	561.75	300.13
	72			172.81	106.14	334.03	188.78	662.81	372.31
	73			197.84	124.69	384.78	224.88	764.31	444.50
	74			222.86	143.15	435.31	261.19	865.38	517.13
	75			254.19	166.25	498.75	306.25	992.25	607.25
	76			282.89	187.25	556.72	347.38	1108.19	689.50
	77			321.21	215.34	634.16	402.06	1263.06	798.88
	78			359.54	243.43	711.38	456.97	1417.50	908.69
	79			397.86	271.60	788.81	511.88	1572.38	1018.50
	80			442.84	301.44	885.72	580.56	1766.19	1155.88

Premiums illustrated represent ages 61-80 for 10 year level term and ages 20-60 for 15 year level term insurance with guaranteed level premiums for 10 and 15 years (not all forms available in all states). $100,000 rates are LTG Ultra-C, (policy form no. LTG-C01 AG Preferred Nontobacco). $250,000 - $500,000 rates are LTG Ultra (policy form no. LTG 2000AG Preferred Nontobacco). It is issued by American General Life Insurance Company, Houston, TX. Medical examination required. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Premiums for other rate classes, age and payment plans are available upon request. Death benefit remains level and is payable in lump sum, or installments, if so elected. The insurance company may contest the policy for two years from date of policy issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit payable from any cause, except suicide within first two policy years. In the event of suicide in the first two years, policy benefit is limited to return of premium paid. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES. American General Life Insurance Company is a member of the American International Group, Inc. The underwriting risks, financial obligations and support functions associated with the products issued by American General Life Insurance Company are solely its responsibility. American General Life is responsible for its own individual financial condition and contractual obligations.

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AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ TOBACCO ❑ NON-TOBACCO

HOME PHONE () _____ WORK PHONE () _____

BENEFICIARY _____ AGE _____

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Lights Out

What we did when we lost electrical power

Everyone agrees that power outages cause considerable inconvenience. Your Touchstone Energy cooperative does its best to reduce the frequency of power interruptions and outages, and to restore power as efficiently and safely as possible after an outage. Cooperatives maintain rights of way to protect poles and lines. They continually upgrade facilities and equipment to ensure the highest quality power distribution. And they dispatch well trained crews who know how to rebuild systems damaged by storms or accidents. Most of you seem to know this, and as a result you respond patiently after an outage. Your cooperative's employees appreciate your understanding.

The key to enduring an extended power outage is preparation. You should stock batteries, flashlights, a radio, a non-electric phone, water, food and other essential supplies in case of a sudden outage.

Many of you remember experiencing some power outages when you learned something about your family, your neighbors or your ability to cope. Here are some stories of those experiences.

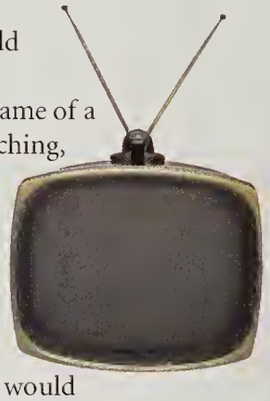
Thanks to everyone who sent us a tale of "what we did when the power went out." You can see more on our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com

Next month we'll publish thoughts by teenagers and others about "Being a Teenager Today." [Deadline was April 15.] See the remaining themes and guide for submissions in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 19.

— Michael E.C. Gery, editor

WHEN TV WAS YOUNG

Growing up in the 1950s on the coast of North Carolina, there was one thing we could be sure of every summer: hurricanes would come and we would lose power.



When word came of a hurricane approaching, Mama would get out the old oil lamps, fill them with kerosene and have them ready. She would start cooking and would prepare enough food to last a couple of days. We ate really well during those storms: fried chicken, biscuits, fried ham and lots of vegetables. Daddy would go down to the country store and buy a loaf of bread, a package of bologna and a large can of pork and beans.

Without TV to watch, we would play games like "I Spy" or checkers. At night we would tell ghost stories. It was exciting to sit in the near darkness of the oil lamp and listen to ghost stories. Daddy would always tell us stories about how it was when he was growing up and all the mischief he got into as a boy.

But we were really glad when the power came back on so we could watch our favorite TV shows, such as "Howdy Doody" and "The Lone Ranger."

Connie Morton
Monroe
Union Power Cooperative

WITH THE SOCK MONKEYS

When the power goes out, we go on vacation. We pack up our two little girls (1 and 4 years old), enough cloth to last us all two or three days, lots of toys and our Yorkshire terrier. We pile into the car and head to my parents' house 15 minutes away.

We invade my parent's home, tracking in snow and noise, and we begin to unpack. My dad already has the generator humming, and so begin the numbing headache that will last longer than the snow. My mom has



homemad soup bub bling on a camping cooker. A the TV, VCR and one lamp are ready for action and will become th center of our brief retreat.

We spend our days warming our selves by the propane logs, eating soup, consuming dozens of mugs of coffee and hot chocolate and watchin favorite movies we know by heart. After the girls go to bed, we "big kids play games like "Noosh" and "Spades And when we can no longer keep ou eyes open, we search for our beds wi our flashlights.

We wake up to coffee and cereal and little girls eager to go sledding. W put my dad's big socks over the girls' shoes and hands up to their knees and shoulders to keep them warm and dry outside. When the "sock monkeys" go for a nap, so do we adults.

Before we know it, the lights are popping back on and our daily routin return. But while the power is out, we have an excuse to take a vacation fron our busy lives and just enjoy each oth

Jeniffer Patterson
Littleton
Halifax EMC

COOKING ON GAS LOGS

When the power goes out things can get really tough, unless you have given some thought about how to prepare for it. We have all been told about having batteries on hand, candles, extra water ready and all this.

But how do you cook and make that hot cocoa for the grandchildren? Having gas logs in the fireplace, I moved the back log further back in the fireplace, placed a metal stand with heavy wire rack on top of it over the gas burner. This makes the perfect place to set pots, frying pans and an old-timey coffee pot.

Setting an old cast iron skillet on this, we battered chicken placed in the hot oil. The chicken cooked to a golden brown, crispy and delicious. A pot of pinto beans simmering filled the house with that aroma that makes you think of the olden days and brings back some fond memories. We even made bread and baked potatoes.

When we finished riding the four-wheelers and building the snowman, we had hot cocoa ready to drink.

Then, as always out at our house, lots of snow-cream.



Marie Kidd
Seagrove
Randolph EMC

COOLING OFF IN THE ICE CHEST

During the storm of Isabel, we all found that we could survive without power. Not that we enjoyed it, but we survived. Thanks to everyone that came to Gates County's rescue.

Most people had windows open because of hot days with no air conditioning. Two of my grandsons found their own ways of keeping cool. The 1-year-old, Chase Matthews, and his 3-year-old brother, Robert Jr., found fun in a mud puddle when Mom turned her back. Chase thought the ice chest was the cooler spot. While Grandma cleaned it to refill it with ice, he just climbed in and sat down.



Mary Piland
Coraspeake
Roanoke Electric Cooperative

ICE CREAM FOR EVERYONE

In the mid-1940s and 1950s we lived in an old two-story farmhouse in a clearing in the middle of the woods. This house had no electricity. There were eight of us 14 children still at home. In the summer we used an oak icebox for perishables, and in the winter we used the wide window sill in the large unheated pantry. We had a wood stove in the kitchen for cooking and heating. There was a fireplace in the living room, and the rest of the house was heated with a huge coal furnace in the basement. For lights, we used kerosene lamps in the early morning and evening hours. I remember when Pop brought home a Coleman lantern for use in the kitchen. The first time it was lit, it was so bright that it hurt my eyes. Evening entertainment consisted of my father playing the accordion and us kids singing. Sometimes we would wind up the Victrola and listen to music on 78 rpm records.



When the weather was especially stormy, Pop would hook up the home-made radio. When the news reported that the electricity was off in town, we would jump up and down with excitement. Not because schools were closed, because they never were. You see, my father's dear friend owned a small country store in town, and if the electricity stayed off long enough, Mr. Hornbeck would give my father all the half melted ice cream for us children to enjoy. The next day, my father would go into town and bring us back the best treat in the world!

Judith A. Cook
Taylorsville
EnergyUnited

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What was the biggest waste of money you remember?
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"My Favorite Photo"
North Carolina people and places. Digital ones must be 300 dpi and printable size.
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OCTOBER 2004
"If I Were Governor of North Carolina"
What would you do?
Deadline: August 15

NOVEMBER 2004
"Mama's Cooking Was Always the Best"
Send a recipe, if you have one, and photos.
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"Meeting Your Grandparents"
Something you never knew about a grandparent.
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The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
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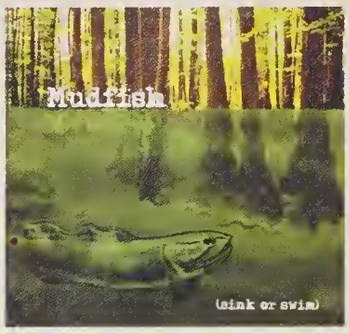
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Tropical Pools

Mudfish (Sink or Swim) CD

The band "Mudfish" has released their debut CD of old-time traditional music. Some tunes such as "Stay All Night" and "Sail Away Ladies" may be familiar, while others are less well known. With both instrumentals and vocals, the CD's 13 songs include guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle (with a jaw's harp and stand-up bass thrown in on a few songs for good measure). The four members of Mudfish live in Manteo, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough. The CD is $10, plus $3 shipping and handling. Call band member Steve Harrison at (252) 473-4830 or e-mail him at raleighwood@juno.com



Hats galore

"When you wear our hats, you are guaranteed compliments!" That's what A Hat Shop exclaims. The millinery store in Franklin offers elegant, feminine hats for all occasions, including straw hats for spring and summer, pillbox designs, felt hats and "softies." Hat stands and fashionable accessories such as feathers, gloves, boas and fans are available. A special section features red hats made in felt, straw and horsehair with a variety of embellishments. Shop owner Joan Lee has been creating custom hats for customers since 1988. Call (828) 524-7420 or visit www.ahatshop.com

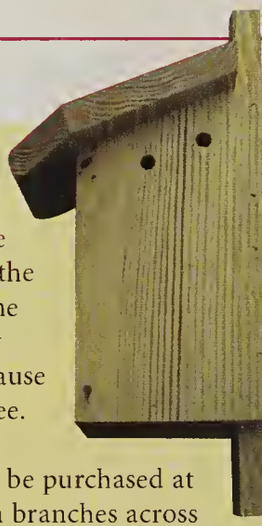


A farm for kids

The folks at Peach Tree Farms say their friendly goats will put a smile on your face and they invite you to visit. Children, parents and grandparents can see registered Boer and registered Nigerian Dwarf goats, along with registered Great Pyrenees Guardian Dogs. The farm, which has its own hay operation, is about 25 miles east of Charlotte in Red Cross. Call (704) 485-4694 or visit www.geocities.com/peachtree goatfarm/goats.html



Bluebird houses



Volunteers for Newell Farms and Wildlife Rehabilitation in Warrenton make quality birdhouses to attract and increase the bluebird population in North Carolina. The birdhouses are constructed of thick yellow heart pine wood, which bluebirds like because the wood and design resemble a hollow tree. The sturdy birdhouses cost $8 (the price is expected to go up this summer). They can be purchased at participating State Employees Credit Union branches across North Carolina or at the warehouse in Warrenton where they are made. The organization has made and sold at least 48,000 birdhouses since the project began. Call (252) 257-5199.

Coastal paddle maps

Paddlers can obtain free paddle trail maps for the central region of the North Carolina coast. The maps, prepared by the Crystal Coast Canoe and Kayak Club, cover Carteret County and include sounds, rivers, black water estuaries, tributary streams and sites such as Bear Island. To find out what locations are featured, visit the club's Web site at www.CCCKC.org. To order maps, you can call (252) 726-8148 or e-mail your request to: vacation@sunnync.com



Aquarium membership

Ever dress up like a shark? Wonder how to feed an alligator? There is so much to do and learn at the three North Carolina Aquariums in Pine Knoll Shores, Fort Fisher and Roanoke Island. The aquariums are adding ocean tanks and exciting new exhibits, and by becoming a member of the N.C. Aquarium Society you can support their expansions. Members receive a newsletter, gift shop discounts, and free admission to the aquariums, the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro and more than 150 other zoos and aquariums around the U.S. Call (800) 832-3474 (FISH) or visit www.ncaquariums.com.



CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE IS ONLINE

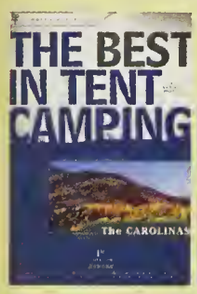
GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

Our store showcases items and services made in or for North Carolina. See more of what's in stock on our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com. If you've got something for the store, send information and pictures to our storekeeper through the Web site or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

ON THE BOOKSHELF

"The Best in Tent Camping"

Written for the camper who hates RVs and loud radios, this guide presents beautiful, quiet and secure camping sites throughout the Carolinas. Author Johnny Malloy traveled throughout North Carolina and South Carolina and culled 55 campgrounds that provide a peaceful wilderness experience yet are accessible, such as Balsam Mountain Campground and Frisco Campground. Every campground listed is rated for beauty, privacy, noise, security, spaciousness and cleanliness. "The Best in Tent Camping: The Carolinas" provides suggestions for outdoor recreation and nearby attractions, maps of each site, and information on facilities, parking, pets and fees. Published by Menasha Ridge Press in Birmingham and distributed by Globe Pequot Press. $14.95, softcover. Available in bookstores or call (800) 243-0495 or visit www.menasharidge.com



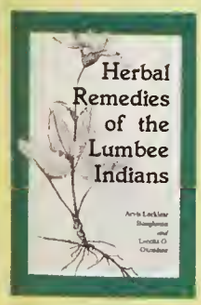
"Bluebird in Belgium"

Growing up in northeastern North Carolina, John Luton marveled as his father told stories about his childhood and adventures during World War II. Luton relates many of those bittersweet stories in his novel, "Bluebird in Belgium." In the Elizabeth City author's tale, the Bluebird journeys from the sweet potato fields of North Carolina to the desert sands of North Africa and explores the search for meaningful existence during war and peace. Published by iUniverse. Softcover, $15.95. Call (877) 288-4737 or visit www.iUniverse.com



"Herbal Remedies of the Lumbee Indians"

This book describes the plant and herbal remedies that the Lumbee tribe, who have resided in the coastal plain of North Carolina for centuries, have used to treat and heal ailments. Content covers illnesses such as cancer, circulatory and digestive systems, the heart, parasitic diseases, asthma, pregnancy, muscle, skeletal and joint disorders. Written by Arvis Locklear Boughman and Loretta O. Oxendine, "Herbal Remedies of the Lumbee Indians" contains a terms glossary and an appendix with the recollections and wellness philosophies of living Lumbee elders, healers and community healers. The book serves as a documentation of Lumbee medicinal practices. Published by McFarland & Company, Inc. in Jefferson. Softcover, $35. Call (800) 253-2187 or visit www.mcfarlandpub.com



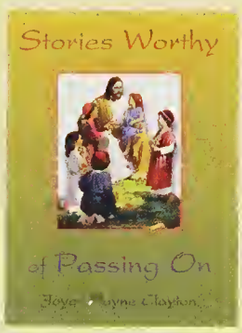
Humor book

You know you've joined a cheap HMO when the tongue depressor tastes like a Fudgesicle and the only medical expense covered 100 percent is embalming. And you know you are a redneck when turning on a light means pulling on a string. Laughter is often the best medicine, and Raleigh surgeon David C. Powell dispenses big doses in his wide-ranging humor collection "I Need A Copy of That!" This compilation of Internet jokes and hospital humor takes no prisoners. Doctors, lawyers, blondes, southerners, Democrats, Republicans and more are served up for laughs. Published by Cork Hill Press in Indianapolis. Softcover, $17.95. Call (866) 688-BOOK or visit www.corkhillpress.com



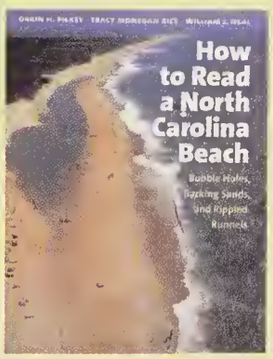
Stories for children

Childhood is the time when we learn valuable lessons about life, including the difference between right and wrong. In "Stories Worth Passing On," author Joyce Clayton presents more than 60 lessons on principle and character. Clayton, who lives in Efland, combines narratives with biblical parables and the teachings of Jesus. Her stories employ illustrative props that children can relate to, such as a balloon or can of milk, and contain a Bible verse that corresponds to the lesson. The wholesome messages focus on developing Christian character and one's potential, along with faith and trust in God. Ivy House Publishing Group of Raleigh. $16.95, Hardcover. Call (800) 948-2786 or visit www.amazon.com



Reading a beach

What, exactly, is "barking" sand? Why are clamshells usually found open-side down in the sand? You'll find the answers to these questions and more in "How To Read A North Carolina Beach: Bubble Holes, Barking Sands and Rippled Tunnels." The comprehensive new field guide shows how to decipher mysteries and interpret clues to the ever-changing shoreline. Coastal experts and co-authors Orrin H. Pilkey, William J. Deal and Tracy Monegan Rice explore the interaction of wind, waves and sand, and explain bubble holes and black sand. The final chapter contemplates the future of N.C. beaches and assesses conservation strategies. Eight color and 79 black and white photographs. Published by The University of North Carolina Press. Softcover, $12.95. Call (800) 848-6224 or visit www.uncpress.unc.edu





"OLD COUNTRY PRIDE"

ART BY RONALD RAGLAND

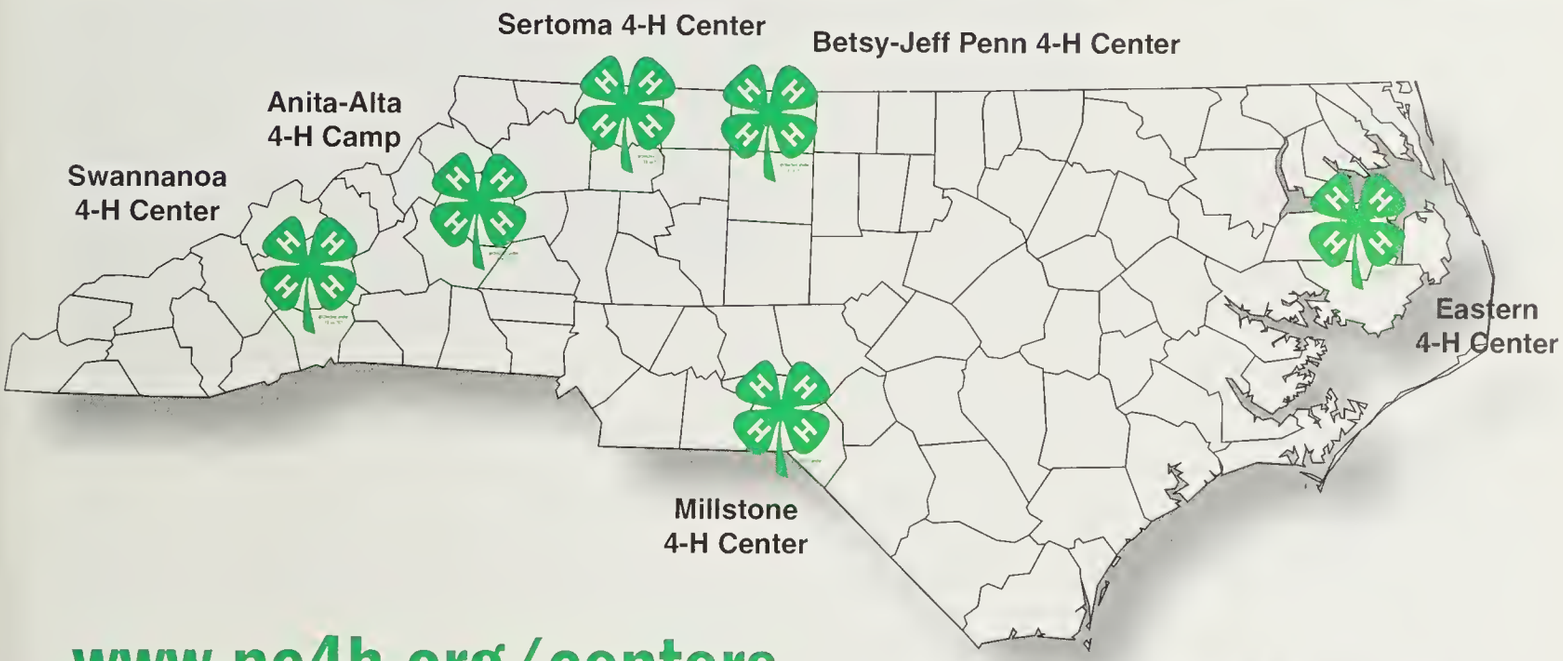
"Old Country Pride" depicts the artist's father, Hugh Ragland, at age 80 with his faithful mules and dog nearby. An award-winning artist for the U.S. Army, Ronald Ragland worked 42 years as a commercial artist before retiring in 1997. He still owns the farmland in Oxford, Granville County, shown in this scene.

Ragland is best known for his paintings of beagles. You can see them at the Web site: www.beagleart.com.

Hand-signed prints of "Old Country Pride" are available. They measure 16-by-20 inches on full-color museum-quality paper. The cost is $60 (includes shipping).

Contact Ragland Prints, 4215 Jane Lane, Raleigh, NC 27604 or visit www.beagleart.com

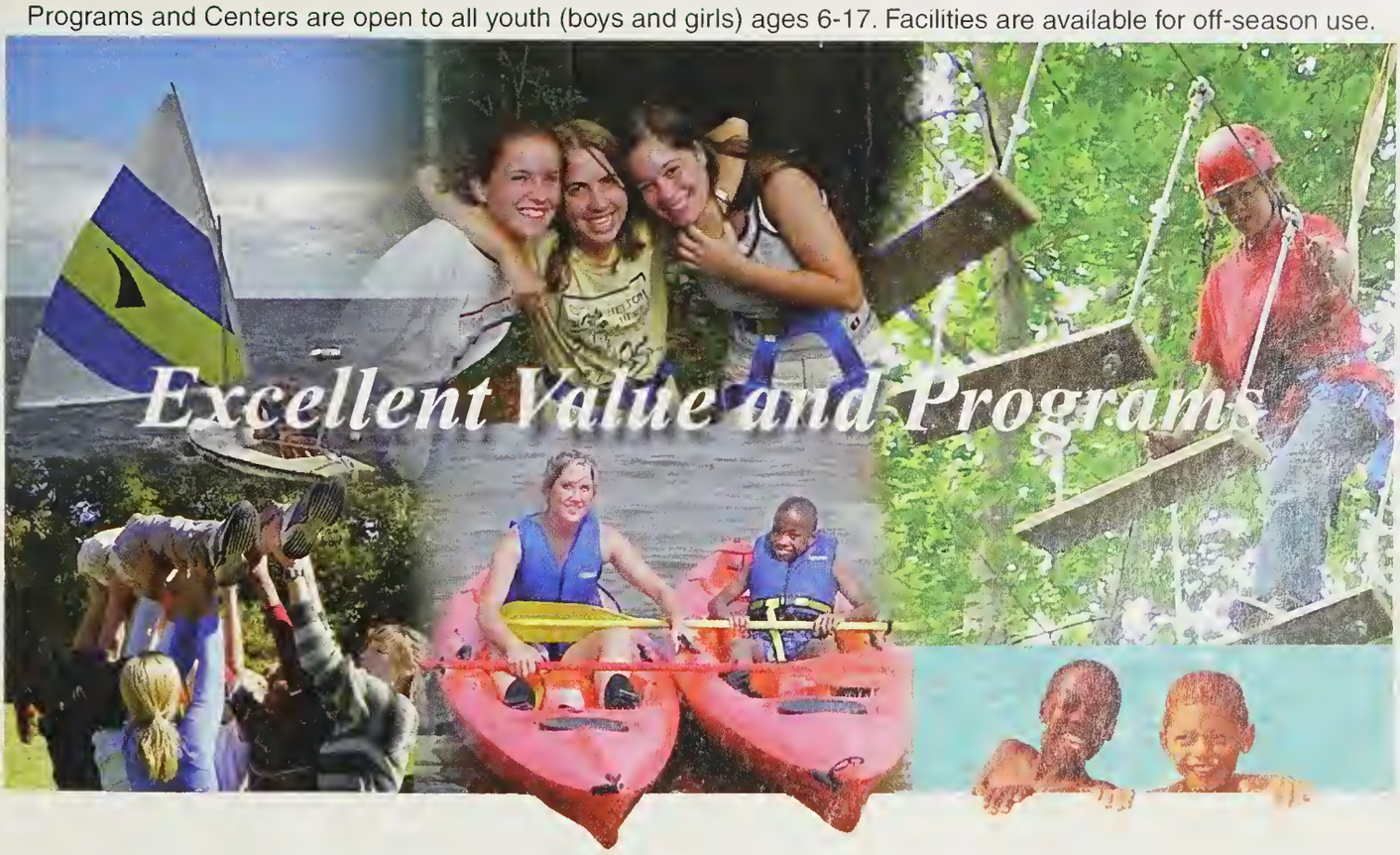
North Carolina's 4-H Camps and Centers



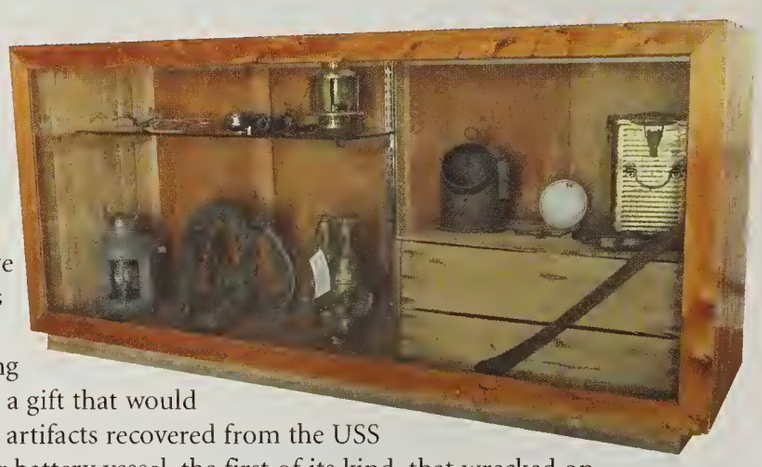
www.nc4h.org/centers
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Six Scenic Locations

Programs and Centers are open to all youth (boys and girls) ages 6-17. Facilities are available for off-season use.



A SHOWCASE FOR SHIPWRECKS



By Danny Couch

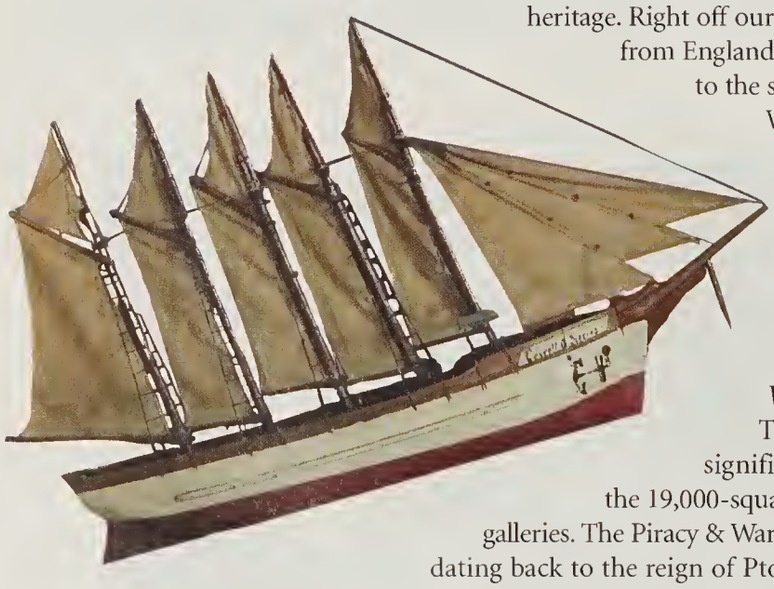
The magnificent Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum on Hatteras Island will put North Carolina in league with the maritime history heavyweights

I felt as excited as a boy going to his grandmother's house at Christmas, except we were a delegation of Hatteras Islanders descending on Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1986. We eagerly hoped for a gift that would make our island the home for artifacts recovered from the USS *Monitor*, an ironclad Civil War battery vessel, the first of its kind, that wrecked on New Year's Eve 1862 just 16 miles off the Outer Banks. We were competing with Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York, whose well-established maritime facilities also hoped to be awarded the prize by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The "little group that could" almost pulled it off, but in the end, the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Va., was designated official caretaker of the collection. Although the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" lay in the waters off our shores, it came down to one thing for North Carolina: We simply had no facility to house the *Monitor.*

It was painfully clear to me and many others that North Carolina needed a world-class facility not just for the *Monitor*, but one to present, promote and preserve our intriguing maritime heritage. Right off our shores lie the bones of American history, from the *Tiger* that sailed from England in 1585 as part of the fleet headed for the Roanoke Island colony to the ships and submarines that sank on Diamond Shoals during World Wars I and II. Just a few miles off the Outer Banks rests one of the world's greatest collections of shipwrecks.

Photos by Michael Halminski



Now, nearly 20 years after we first traveled to Washington, we stand poised to present to North Carolina and the nation the facility we have been hoping for: the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. North Carolina is soon to be on equal footing with national and international maritime history heavyweights.

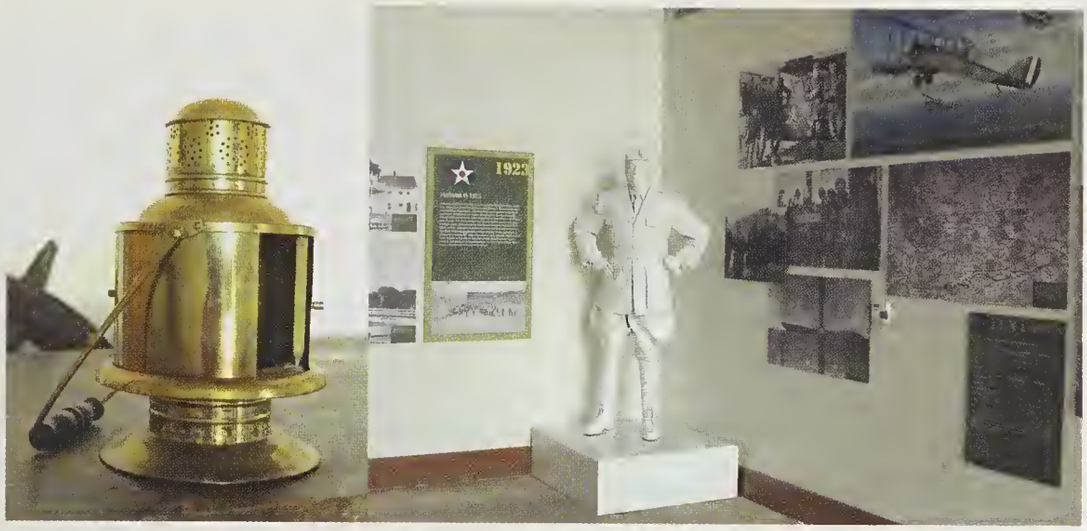
What will be inside?

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum already has amassed some significant artifacts, staggering in their historical implications. When the 19,000-square-foot museum opens, history will be showcased in five museum galleries. The Piracy & Warfare Gallery features a fascinating coin collection—"pirate booty"—dating back to the reign of Ptolemy IV in Ancient Egypt. These incredible coins were collected over 50 years and found on the beaches of Hatteras and Ocracoke by William Sell, a longtime visitor to the Outer Banks and a master amateur treasure hunter.

The Civil War Gallery will feature artifacts and the story of the USS *Monitor* and its impact on modern naval warfare. Hatteras Island is the site of many Civil War "firsts," including the first Union victory on southern soil and the first African-Americans to see action in the war.

The World War I and World War II Gallery spotlights one of the museum's prized possessions, an Enigma Machine, recovered from the U-85, the first German U-boat sunk during WW II off American shores. The Enigma was the decoding device that allowed U-boats to communicate in secret code, and it took the Allies years to finally crack it. Donated to the museum by

PHOTO TOP RIGHT: Artifacts from the* Carroll A. Deering, *known as the "Ghostship of Diamond Shoals," whose crew disappeared after it was stranded in 1921. Photo above left: A model of the schooner* Carroll A. Deering, *made by Damon Grey from the ship's actual timbers, donated to the museum by Lucille Truitt.



Above at left is one of only three known lanterns in existence used by members of the U.S. Lifesaving Service in the 19th century when they patrolled the beach looking for signs of distress at sea. Above right is part of the museum's exhibit on Gen. Billy Mitchell who first demonstrated the superiority of air power in 1923 by sinking old battleships off Hatteras Island.

the Republic of Germany and the dive team that recovered it, the Enigma Machine is one of the finest of only a handful in existence.

I chair the artifacts committee that has worked hard to establish, as a cornerstone of the museum's collection, artifacts from the 5-masted schooner *Carroll A. Deering*, the famed "Ghostship of Diamond Shoals," which stranded "in a boiling bed of breakers" during the night of Jan. 31, 1921. When found the next day, all its sails were set and a meal had been prepared, yet there was no sign of the ship's crew. To this day, what really happened to the *Carrol A. Deering* is an enduring legend of North Carolina's coast and one of the greatest mysteries of American maritime history. We have many artifacts from the "Ghostship": the windlass, lamps, timbers, even Captain Wormell's desk, which will be faithfully restored.

Dedicated supporters

For me, it is extremely gratifying to watch the museum evolve. It has been a remarkable success story of cooperation among federal, state and county governments and private resources.

Initially intended to be a small facility with architecture reminiscent of the old life-saving stations, the museum concept expanded in 1988 when the National Park Service graciously offered a 7-acre site near the Hatteras ferry dock. Seed money to fund the various studies and permits necessary to use national seashore land came from a $50,000 Albemarle Commission grant in September 1991, and the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum developed into a state-of-the-art facility almost overnight.

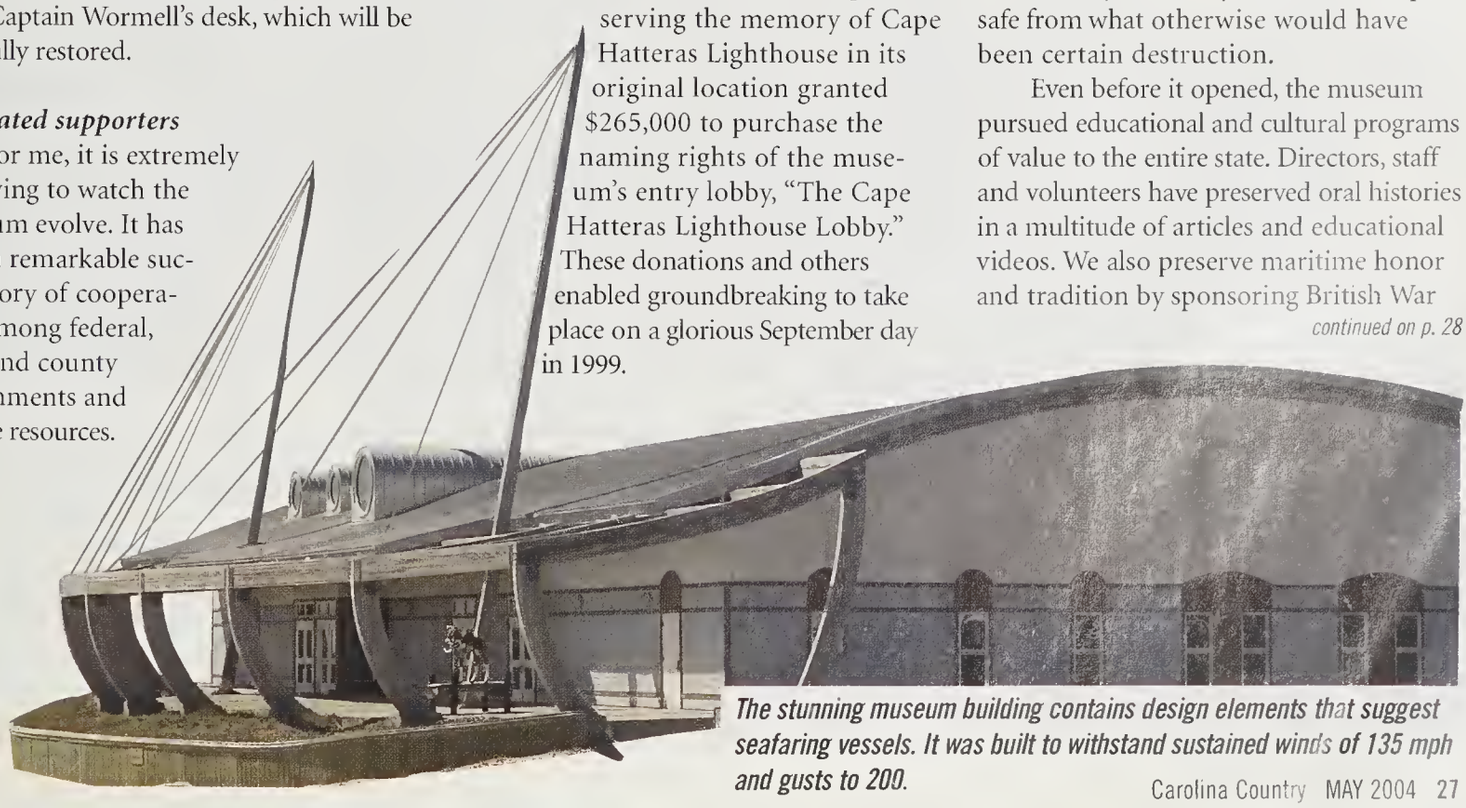
Major fund-raising got underway in 1993 when Congress appropriated $760,000, and North Carolina followed suit in 1994 with $800,000 in matching funds. Dare County contributed $100,000, and a group of patriotic North Carolinians committed to preserving the memory of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in its original location granted $265,000 to purchase the naming rights of the museum's entry lobby, "The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Lobby." These donations and others enabled groundbreaking to take place on a glorious September day in 1999.

Strategic contributions came in 2002 from the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative, long committed to our island's cultural and historical resources, with a low-interest, incentive-laden loan of $500,000 through the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation's economic development program. The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau contributed $470,000 in 2002 as well. This timely opportunity allowed us to open part of the museum in June 2003, and nearly 60,000 visitors an average of 550 per day viewed the exhibits until Sept. 16, when Hurricane Isabel slammed into Hatteras Village. The hurricane opened a new inlet just north of Hatteras Village, virtually cutting off all traffic until a road was restored two months later.

Fortunately, our public and private partners realize that the museum is integral to the recovery of Hatteras Village and parts of Hatteras and Ocracoke islands in the wake of Hurricane Isabel's devastation. The museum rode out Isabel's mountainous storm surge without a scratch, performing exactly the way it was supposed to in a major hurricane. It was designed and built to withstand sustained winds of 135 miles per hour and gusts up to 200 mph. Its foundation walls extend 10 feet below grade. Sited just off the oceanfront beach, the building took in no water or sand during Isabel. Helicopters used its parking lot to deliver supplies and rescue personnel. And inside, the historic radio hut used in the 1920s by Gen. Billy Mitchell was kept safe from what otherwise would have been certain destruction.

Even before it opened, the museum pursued educational and cultural programs of value to the entire state. Directors, staff and volunteers have preserved oral histories in a multitude of articles and educational videos. We also preserve maritime honor and tradition by sponsoring British War

continued on p. 28



The stunning museum building contains design elements that suggest seafaring vessels. It was built to withstand sustained winds of 135 mph and gusts to 200.

...ontinued from p. 27

Graves Memorials in Ocracoke and Buxton for servicemen each May who gave their lives in defense of freedom. Important discoveries like the Henri Lepaute lighthouse lens from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse underscore the opportunity at hand to promote North Carolina history to the next generation.

The museum's 2003 exhibit on Gen. Billy Mitchell, who demonstrated the superiority of air power in 1923 by sinking the old battleships New Jersey and Virginia on Diamond Shoals, was a resounding success. For 2004, the museum is displaying an exhibit on the U.S. Lifesaving Service and the U.S. Lighthouse Service in cooperation with the National Park Service. We also plan a major Civil War exhibit early in 2005, featuring artifacts specific to the bombardment of Hatteras Inlet and the ensuing Union occupation.

New for 2004 is the museum's ship's store, the Meekins Chandelry, under hands-on management of one of the largest and most recognized retailers on the Outer Banks, the Christmas Shop of Roanoke Island. Store inventory will be centered around items unique to the Outer Banks and the museum. This partnership between museums and private retailers is a new standard for museum proprietorships nationwide.

I am ecstatic, after many years of hard work, that an agreement was reached in April with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Virginia's Mariners Museum. Once the Hatteras museum is completed, more than 20 select artifacts from the Monitor are coming to North Carolina. Included are the anchor, a Worthington Pump, a boiler lamp and many other significant pieces.

As our grandmother would have reminded us, good things come to those who must wait. Especially when they work hard in the meantime.



Museum executive director Joseph K. Schwarzer 2nd shows artifacts from the ocean-going tug* Marjorie B. McAllister, *which lost all hands when it sank in a gale.



Hatteras Island native Danny Couch of Buxton is a long-time museum board member, a tour operator and island historian. He is a member of Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative.

Visit the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
We look forward to any help and support. Membership is $25 for individuals, $10 for students in grades K-12 and $5,000 for lifetime.

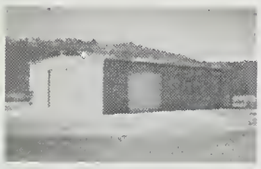
Visit the museum this year.
It's located at 59200 Museum Drive, near the ferry landing, in Hatteras Village.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
P.O. Box 191
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Phone: (252) 986-2995
E-mail: museum@graveyardoftheatlantic.com
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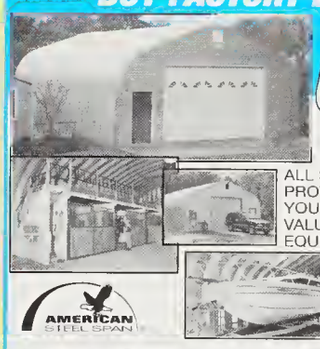
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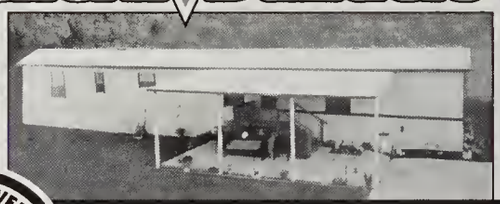
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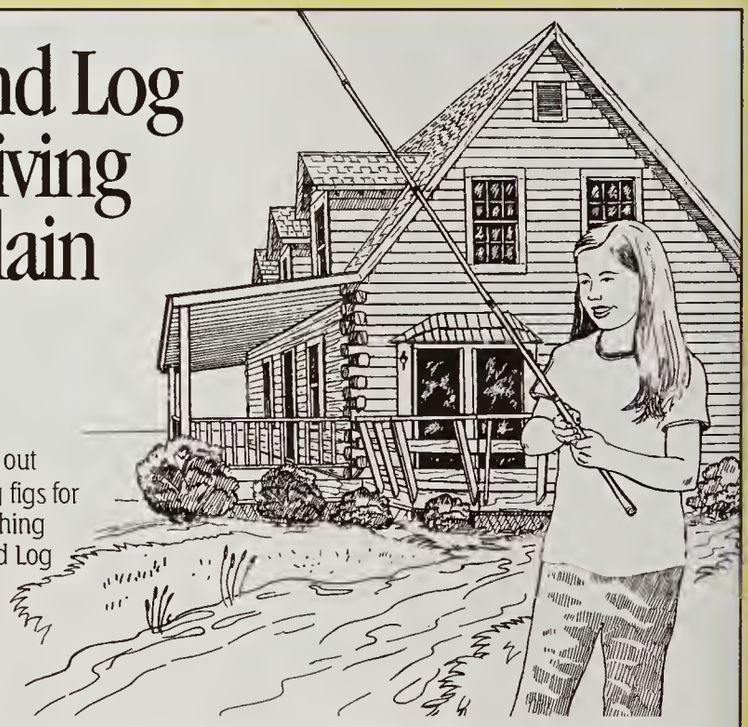


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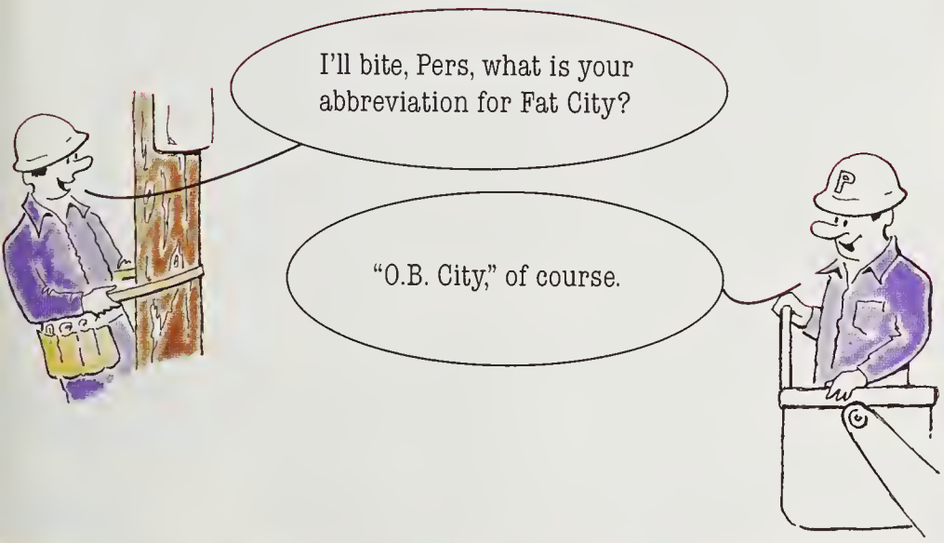
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Answers on page 33.

DIGIT DETECTION

Given the simultaneous equations above, can you find the value of ONSLOW County? Each letter stands for a digit. Use the grid to eliminate impossibilities, i.e. "No square ends in 2, 3, 7, or 8. Therefore W is not 2, 3, 7, or 8. No number less than 32 has a four-digit square. Therefore O is greater than 2." The square of the two digit number ON is the four digit number SLOW.

ON^2=SLOW O-N=S
S+L=W L-O=O

	O	N	S	L	O	W
9						
8						X
7						X
6						
5						
4						
3						X
2	X					X
1	X					
0	X					

haiku*

*an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines containing usu. 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively ...Webster's Ninth

I could not love thee
half so well, had I not some
past experience.
— Cy Nical

SOUTHERN exposure

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Doe and the late Jean Doe are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Joan Doe to...

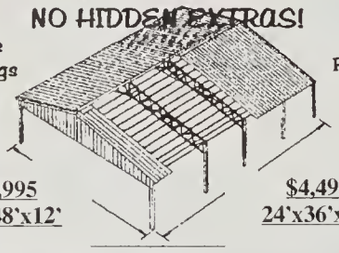
from The Salisbury Post (only the names have been changed)

π 5 ^{2} c ^{p} a MATH WORDS

Each letter in this division puzzle stands for a digit. Can you replace the digits that take the FEVER out of SPRING?

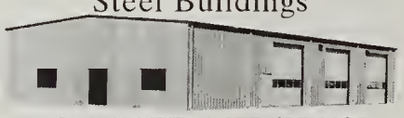
```
        F E V E R
    ------------
G | S P R I N G
  2           2
    S P
    ---
      R
      R
      -
        I
        I
        -
          N
          R
          -
          S G
            2
          S G
            2
          ---
```

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MATHWORDS
S P R I N G ÷ G = F E V E R
1 0 6 8 7 2 ÷ 2 = 5 3 4 3 6

DIGIT DETECTION
O N S L O W =
4 3 1 8 4 9

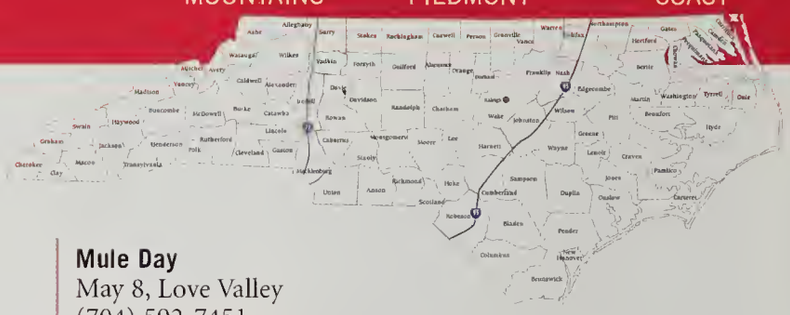
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Merlefest
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Chili Cook-Off
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Spring Fest
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Spring Garden Tour
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BoogieFest
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"Our Town"
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Burlon Craig Pottery Festival
May 15, Lincolnton
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Art in the Park
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Historic Homes Tour
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May 2, Durham
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Bluegrass Music Fest
May 6-8, Denton
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Carthage Buggy Festival
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May 8, Mocksville
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May 13-16, High Point
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Homespun Faire
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MAY EVENTS



Visitors are invited to bring Charlotte memorabilia and share their memories at "Charlotte Originals," set for Saturday, May 15. This nostalgic nod to the Queen City will be held at The Charlotte Museum of History. Call (704) 568-1774 or visit www.charlottemuseum.org

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Schiele Museum
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PIEDMONT

"Brain Teasers 2"
Through May 8, Oxford
Granville County Historical Society Museum
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N.C. Artists Competitions
Through May 9, Fayetteville
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Documentary Photography
Through May 19, Durham
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Mexican Tomb Figures
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Museum of Anthropology
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"26 Contraptions, A-Z"
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"Faces of our State"
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Charlotte Museum of History
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May 23, Mint Hill
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May 29, Forest City
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COAST
(EAST OF I-95)

Wooden Boat Show
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Quarter Horse Show
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May 9, Morehead City
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Checker Tournament
May 12-15, Kinston
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Queen Elizabeth Farce
May 13, Manteo
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Blackbeard Symposium
May 14, Beaufort
(252) 728-7317

Tractor & Truck Pull
May 14-15, Pinetops
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May 15, Scotland Neck
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www.townofscotlandneck.com

4-H Horse Show
May 15-16, Williamston
(910) 324-2555

Nature Photo Workshop
May 15, Belhaven
(252) 964-4196

Homes Tour
May 15-16, Hertford
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www.perquimans.com

Open House
May 16, Bath
(252) 923-3971
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/bath/bath.htm

Scottish & Traditional Music
May 21, Beaufort
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www.downeastfolkarts.org

Homes & Gardens Tour
May 22, Morehead City
(252) 808-0440

Fossil Festival
May 28, Aurora
(252) 322-5769

Heritage Weekend
May 28-31, Harkers Island
(252) 728-1500

Spring Show
May 29-30, Beaufort
(252) 728-7739

Arts Festival
May 29, Wilmington
(910) 251-1788
www.thalian.org

Beach Music Festival
May 30, Manteo
(252) 473-4600
www.darecountyjaycees.com

Blueberry Festival
June 5, Ammon
(910) 588-4592

LISTING INFORMATION

- **Deadline for July: May 25**
- **Deadline for August: June 25.**

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Please include title, date(s), location, phone number and/or Web site url. Photos (300 dpi or hard copies) are welcome.

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Maggie Valley Turns **100 Years Old**



Centennial festivities take place in Maggie Valley beginning May 10.

Nestled among the Great Smoky Mountains in Haywood EMC's service territory near the Blue Ridge Parkway, the town of Maggie Valley is gearing up to celebrate its 100th birthday.

The centennial celebration kicks off on May 10 at the local post office with the presentation of a commemorative U.S. Postal Service centennial logo cancellation stamp. The Western Carolina University band will be in attendance, as well as Patty Kosier, the 77-year-old daughter of the original Maggie (see sidebar). But the party doesn't end there. The festivities will extend all the way through September, with various events and some competitions that call for local participation.

Here are a few highlights. For a more complete listing, visit **www.maggievalley.org**. You can also call (828) 926-1686, (800) 624-4431 or e-mail 100years@maggievalley.org.

Event Highlights

May 15	Big parade with Maggie Setzer's daughter Patty Kosier as grand marshal
May 22-23	Spring garden fair
May 28-30	Great Smoky Mountain Trout Festival
June 5	Bark in the Park
June 12	Sidewalk chalk art contest
July 3	Fashion show, luncheon and casino night
July 4	Fireworks and bluegrass music
July 16-18	Gulf Coast Heritage Harbor Days, a cultural exchange with Foley, Ala. Full-size working shrimp boat, oyster shuckers, net menders, and of course lots of shrimp, oysters and crabs to eat. Local Maggie Valley entertainers and artists will travel to Foley in November to return the favor by sharing some culture of their own.
Aug. 28	Outhouse Race and Moonlight Race
Sept. 25	Barbecue Blow Out

The "Maggie" in Maggie Valley

In 1904, John Sidney Setzer wanted to set up a post office in the area now known as Maggie Valley. U.S. Postal Service guidelines required that an actual town serve as the location of the post office. Setzer proposed that the new town be named after one of his three daughters, and the name "Maggie" was chosen.

Although Maggie Setzer died in 1979 at the age of 88, she lives on as part of the town's heritage. You'll see her image—a woman clad in a yellow prairie bonnet, red ankle-length skirt, green blouse and yellow apron—on brochures, as costumed performers, and more around town.

Water Festival at White Lake in Bladen County

Sponsored by Four County EMC

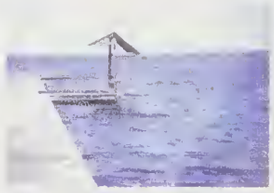
On May 14, 15 and 16, go tropical and wear a flowery lei, bright Hawaiian shirt, and flip-flops to the 26th annual White Lake Water Festival in Bladen County. Don't worry—you won't be alone in your colorful attire. Festival promoters are encouraging folks to get into the spirit and "Bring the Water Back to the Water Festival" by sporting such duds.

Sponsored by Four County EMC, a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, this family event first started as a blueberry festival. You probably won't find the round, blue fruit there today, but you will find plenty of water-oriented activities, from canoeing and raft races to sand castle building and swimsuit shows. Compete in a shag contest on Friday and choose from a multitude of options on Saturday, including: a boat show, car show, fun run and 10 K, parade, barbecue cook-off, tractor pull, wake board demos and the Voltage Brothers (70s/80s band) from 10:30 p.m.-1 a.m. On Sunday, enjoy gospel music, crafts and the firemen's olympics.

The festival takes place around White Lake with its sandy bottom and clear waters thanks to subterranean springs. The lake is free of currents, tides and other dangers to swimmers, earning it the nickname of the "nation's safest beach."

The festival is free, although the concerts cost $10 in advance or $15 at the door. To learn more, visit **www.whitelakenc.com** or contact Brenda Clark at (910) 862-4800.

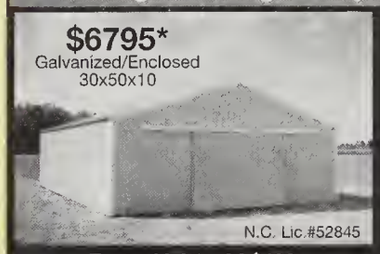
White Lake is located in Bladen County, 10 miles north of Elizabethtown.



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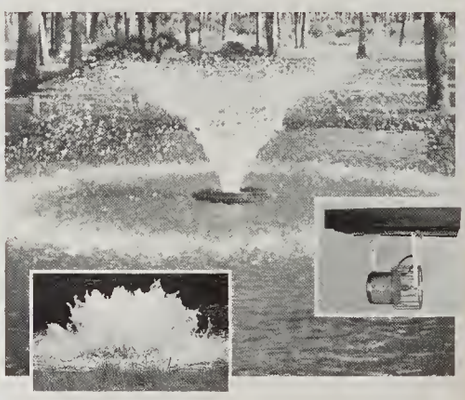
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Research has revealed that when heavy concentrations of all the major elements were doubled in solutions to grow tomatoes, the mite population doubled, too. Chemical farmers who used twice as much fertilizer as recommended "to be sure that plants are well fed" then saw plants getting eaten by pests. Organically grown plants will be eaten by some insects, but not as much as chemically grown plants. For organically grown plants: "Sticks and stones may break my leaves and stems, but chemicals will never harm me."

For more May gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of carolinacountry.com

GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

"And May was come. The month of gladness."

— John Lydgate, c.1415

Lawn mowing and fertilization

Improper mowing not only leaves a bad-looking lawn, but it's an invitation to weeds, diseases and other problems. Evenness of cut is essential to good looks. Mowing height and frequency are essential for good health.

Each grass has a height at which it does best. Coarse grasses usually should be cut ½-1½ inches; Zoysias, ¾-1½ inches; St. Augustine, 2-2½ inches; Centipede, 1½-2½ inches; and Bahia, 2-2½ inches. If lawns are somewhat shady, mow to the higher height. Mowing frequently depends to a large extent on fertility and moisture conditions.

Turf specialists recommend mowing often enough to remove about a half-inch, or no more than one-third of the green leaf surface. All grasses need some fertilizer for good growth, but the amounts they need vary. Bermuda needs the most. Centipedes need the least. If you follow the popular and common practice of using a complete fertilizer (8-8-8, 10-10-10) or one of the special tree turf mixtures for the spring application, you may need to add only nitrogen for the remainder of the summer at four-to-six week intervals.

Recommended rates of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet: Bermuda, 2-3 pounds; Zoysia, St. Augustine, and Behia, 2 pounds; and Centipede ½-1 pound. It takes about 6 pounds of nitrate of soda or 3 pounds of ammonium nitrate to supply 1 pound of actual nitrogen.

Vegetables: plant your favorites

Where space is limited, plan carefully how much of each crop will be needed in the kitchen. Family favorites will naturally get the most attention. Four to six well-grown and cared for plants can produce all the fruit an average family can use.

If eggplants and bell peppers are among family favorites, plant two or three plants of each. They take up relatively little space and bear until frost. If space allows, you might want to include plantings of pole or bush snapbeans, or lima beans, okra, summer and winter squash, southern peas, cucumber, cantaloupe and watermelon. And don't forget sweet corn.

Hardy spiral aloe

Aloe polyphylla is native to the high mountains of South Africa, but spiral aloe is perfectly adapted to cold, wet winters of the eastern U.S. The tight rosette of light green leaves continue in a beautiful spiral as the plant ages. When you plant, consider drainage. Good winter drainage is essential for best performance.

Plant once, pick forever

Once established, perennial plants will provide a bountiful harvest every year for many years. Three that are easy to grow are asparagus, horseradish and rhubarb. They are seldom bothered by insects and diseases, and all require about the same growing conditions: a sunny location and a deep soil rich in organic matter. Because these hardy edibles will occupy the same space for years, plant them at the end of the garden where they won't interfere with the soil preparation and growing of annual veggies, or plant the three in a place of their own. Each is an attractive ornamental, suitable as a border planting in front of a wall or fence, or as a background for annual and perennial flowers.



The dwarf Blackberry Lily works well as a border plant.

Asparagus is relatively expensive at the grocery store and loses quality quickly after picking, so it's wise to grow your own. An asparagus bed is a long-term investment. Many plantings last 30 years or more, and can produce up to a half-pound of spears per foot of row over the eight-week harvest period in spring and summer.

Easily grown horseradish is an aggressive veggie. Its large taproot grows straight down, with secondary roots that usually grow out horizontally for three feet or more. When the taproot is harvested, even the tiniest pieces of leftover roots can sprout new plants that can quickly overrun the garden. The best way to avoid this disaster is to plant horseradish in its own bed, or corral it in a bottomless barrel at the end of the garden.

Super pineapples

Homegrown pineapples can add a tropical flair to your home, and a delicious accent at meal time. Twist the top off a pineapple, plant it in a pot of fertile soil, and then wait. In the spring and summer, place the plant outside in the sun. Give it plenty of water. If the temperature drops below 45 degrees, bring the pot indoors. It takes about two years for the plant to yield an edible pineapple. Homegrown pineapples are much sweeter than those from the grocery store.

Retractable door screens can improve ventilation

By James Dulley

Improving ventilation through screen doors instead of continuously using air-conditioning can lower your utility bills and often improve indoor air quality. Another advantage of having screens over doors is you can install special sun-control screening. This fiberglass screening is easy to see through and it provides adequate ventilation, but it can block up to 70 percent of the sun's heat. During the winter, the screen slows down the direct force of winter winds and reduces the outdoor air infiltration through your doors.

You have three basic options for adding screening over your doors: 1) make your own screen panels, 2) install new decorative screen doors, or 3) install retractable screens that disappear. Installing tight-fitting screens is also more important than ever with so many cases of West Nile virus occurring from mosquito bites.

Several companies offer do-it-yourself screen framing kits that you can size to your existing door. The kits include frame extrusions, splines, springs, pull tabs and corner connectors. Check at your home center store.

Installing a new screen door is an effective option, but an expensive one. You might get by with a moderately priced door (several hundred dollars) for the back. For the front, a more decorative high-quality screen door can cost $500 or more with installation. Better screen doors often also offer the options of sun-control or super-strong, pet resistant screening panels.

A more reasonably priced option is adding retractable screens over your front and back doors. I installed a kit over my insulated carbon-fiber double front doors in my own home. Some designs are only dealer-installed, but others, such as mine, are available in do-it-yourself kits. When the screens are retracted, they are totally out of sight and out of the way. Many models have a lifetime warranty on everything except the screening fabric itself.

Most retractable screen systems operate in a similar manner to one another. You attach a narrow tubular housing (cassette) vertically on the door frame and a latching channel on the other side. One small aluminum track is attached horizontally to the floor and one to the top of the door opening. A magnetic latch is built into the latching channel.

When you open your door for ventilation, pull the handle on the edge of the screen that is coiled up in the cassette. It unrolls from the cassette and latches on the other side with the magnetic latch. Some models use a mechanical latch for high wind conditions in high-rise apartment buildings. There is slight spring tension on the screening to keep it taut and attractive. On the do-it-yourself kits, the tension is adjustable.



Options include decorative high-quality screen doors.

There are quality differences among the various designs available. Replacement screening kits are available because any screen will wear out over time. Look for a long warranty. Since retractable screens can be mounted inside or outside the primary door where they are exposed to the weather, stainless steel hardware and aluminum extrusions are a definite plus.

Some kits use ball bearings in the cassette and pile lining in the grooves for smooth operation. Double-latching magnets provide a sealed edge when closed. Durable reinforcing strips along the edge of the screen can increase its life substantially. Much of the wear on the screen occurs where it slides in the track.

There are somewhat similar designs of retractable screens for windows. These kits use a screen that automatically covers the window when you open it and retracts again when you close the window. This is effective for solar heating because the glass is not covered with screen when you desire the sun's heat. Larger dealer-installed, motorized retractable screens are available to cover an entire balcony or porch.

If you want to work bug-free and comfortably cool in your garage or want to use it as a screened-in "porch" for entertaining at times, install a garage door screen kit. The kits are available for doors up to 20 feet wide and eight feet high. The screen can be put up and removed quickly and there is a walk-through Velcro sealed door in the center of it.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 813 - buyer's guide of 12 add-on retractable door/window screen kits, screen panel kits and special screening manufacturers showing types, sizes, colors, features, diagrams, and prices. Please include $3.00 and a business-size SASE.

Send to:

James Dulley
Carolina Country
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recipes editor, **Jenny Lloyd**

- *The annual North Carolina Strawberry Festival* will be in Chadbourne April 28-May 2. Visit www.ncstrawberryfestival.com
- *The annual Ammon Blueberry Festival* in Bladen County will be held June 5.
- *The annual North Carolina Blueberry Festival* will be in Historic Burgaw, June 26. Go to www.visitpender.com



Lemon Blueberry Coffee Cak

1 egg, lightly beaten
⅓ cup sugar
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
⅔ cup milk
2 ¼ cups biscuit baking mix
1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries*
3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
4 teaspoons lemon juice

In a bowl, combine the egg, sugar, lemon peel and milk; mix well. Stir in the biscuit mix just until moistened. Fold in blueberries. Pour into a greased 9-inch round baking pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. Combine the confectioners' sugar and lemon juice until smooth, drizzle over warm cake. Cut into wedges.

Yield: 6-8 servings.

*Editor's note. If using frozen blueberries, do not thaw before adding to the batt

Strawberry Satin Pie

1 pastry shell (9 inches), baked
½ cup sliced almonds, toasted
½ cup sugar
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
3 tablespoons cornstarch
½ teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup whipping cream, whipped

GLAZE:
3 cups fresh strawberries
1 cup water
⅓ cup sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
12 drops red food coloring, optional



Cover bottom of pie shell with almonds; set aside. In a saucepan, combine the sugar, flour, cornstarch and salt. Stir in milk until smooth. Bring to boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount of hot filling into egg. Return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat. Stir in vanilla. Cool to room temperature. Whisk in whipped cream until blended. Pour into pie shell. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

Crush 1 cup of strawberries; set remaining berries aside. In a saucepan, bring crushed berries and water to a boil; cook, uncovered, for 2 minutes. Strain through cheesecloth; discard fruit and set liquid aside to cool.

In another saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch; gradually stir in berry liquid until blended. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in food coloring if desired. Cool for 20 minutes. Slice the reserved strawberries; arrange over chilled filling. Pour glaze evenly over berries. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Yield: 6-8 servings.

Fluffy Strawberry Meringue Pie

3 egg whites
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
1 cup sugar
½ cup crushed saltines (about 12 crackers)
½ cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 pints fresh strawberries, divided
4 cups miniature marshmallows
1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, tha
Red food coloring, optional

In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites and cream tartar on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, on l until stiff glossy peaks form and sugar is dissolved. in the crackers, pecans and vanilla.

Spread onto the bottom and up the sides of a greased 10-inch deep dish pie plate. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until meringue is lig browned. Cool on wire rack.

Set aside one strawberry for garnish. Slice half of strawberries; set aside. In a bowl, mash the remainir strawberries; drain juice, reserving ½ cup. In a sauce combine marshmallows and reserved juice. Cook a stir over low heat until marshmallows are melte Refrigerate until partially set.

Fold the sliced and mashed strawberries and whipped topping into marshmallow mixture. Add food coloring if desired. Spoon into meringue she Garnish with the reserved strawberry. Refrigerat for 3 hours or until set. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yield: 8-10 servings.

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send $2 to Taste of Home, Suite 321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com.

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